THE TIMES

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FRIDAY DECEMBER 23 1983

20p

THE TIMES
Christmas

... eve ...
... begins with a 36-page issue of The Times

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J	U	M	B	O					
				C	R	O	S	S	
				D					

... clues
Sharpen your wits with the Jumbo Crossword

... past
Searching for Santa in the Deep South – by Truman Capote

... present
Match the personalities to their ideal gifts

... box
Four-page pull-out guide to television and radio

... tree
A question of yolkas and sosnas: Christmas in Moscow

... games
Previews and fixtures of all the holiday sport

... quiz
The Times quiz of 1983

Rate Bill attack by Rippon

Mr Geoffrey Rippon, a former Conservative Secretary of State for the Environment, told MPs that the Government's rate capping Bill was deplorable and a classic example of elective dictatorship.

But the measure was defended by Mrs Margaret Thatcher as being overwhelmingly popular among ratepayers

Parliamentary report, page 4

Trade rebound

Britain's trade figures showed an estimated surplus of £317m last month after a £219m deficit in October as exports had their *second best month ever*. Page 13

Shipyard vote

Workers at the threatened Scott Lithgow shipyard have supported the call for a national shipbuilding strike over pay from January 6 Page 2



Oil price held

BNOC is to hold the price of North Sea oil at $30 a barrel for four months to the relief of Opec producers Page 13

Pound saver

The Prime Minister seems to have saved the £1 note for now, after reports of Treasury attempts to spirit it away and leave only the coin Page 3

Bank strike

Many high street banks face serious disruption this afternoon as some counter clerks walk out in protest at losing their Christmas "early closing" perk Page 3

Postal peace

Post Office staff at Shepherds Bush, west London, who have been on strike since December 1, are returning to work today

England dates

England now know their schedule of qualifying games for the 1986 World Cup finals. Page 17

Thatcher moves to silence men behind the IRA

By Philip Webster Political Reporter

The Prime Minister yesterday called for a fresh assessment of the defences available against terrorism, with a special emphasis on stopping republican politicians inciting violence.

The Cabinet spent nearly an hour discussing the repercussions of last Saturday's Harrods bombing, which killed five people and injured 90 others, and agreed that things could not be left as they were.

It paid particular attention to what it regards as the growing menace of incitement to violence by prominent figures in the republican community.

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, and the law officers were therefore asked to consider not only further measures of policing and security but also how the common law against incitement to violence could be more effectively applied.

They will report back to the Cabinet early in the new year.

As expected, the Cabinet decided against proscribing Provisional Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, accepting Mr Prior's advice that such a ban could not be effective and would not help the situation in Northern Ireland. The Government's policy in this respect therefore remains as it was, although it was emphasized afterwards that it will be kept under review.

MPs were last night attaching significance to the decision to examine how the incitement laws could be better used. It was seen as a clear expression of the strength of the Government's wish to act against the men behind the bombers.

Ministers have become increasingly aware of public offence at statements by leading republican politicians about what they see as the legitimate link between the bullet and the ballot box.

In an exclusive article for *The Times*, Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Irish Prime Minister, urges Mrs Thatcher to join forces with Dublin in a commitment to defeat the IRA gunmen and bombers (page 10).

Ministers believe such remarks would almost certainly come under the law on incitement because they amount to encouragement for terrorist acts.

There was little clue in Whitehall last night on what further measures ministers might recommend, although increased deployment of manpower and improvement of intelligence links seemed most likely.

There appears to be little Government enthusiasm for interment of suspected terrorists or the introduction of identity cards, but the ending of official contacts with Sinn Fein is likely to be considered.

In the Commons yesterday, Mrs Thatcher praised the police and expressed sympathy for bereaved families. She said: "We would all like, especially at *Christmas time, to* place on record our thanks for the bravery and courage of the police, and particularly to remember those families who will not have a loved one with them this Christmas because of the bombing last Saturday".

She agreed with a Conservative backbencher who had criticized the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament for staging a demonstration in London on Tuesday, which took policemen away from their street patrols.

The Prime Minister said it would have been a nice gesture if those who had planned demonstrations had cancelled them in favour of fighting terrorism.

A Conservative MP, meanwhile, has asked the Attorney General to refer to the Director of Public Prosecutions the contents of Granada Television's *World in Action* programme last Monday about Mr Gerry Adams, the president of Sinn Fein and MP for Belfast, West.

Mr Robert Adley said in a letter to Sir Michael Havers that the programme contained allegations which, if substantiated, indicated that Mr Adams had broken the law.

Financing terror, page 2

Harrods bomb hunt police release two men

By Stewart Tendler and Arthur Osman

Two of the four men held by London detectives investigating the Harrods bombing were released yesterday, while other officers questioned a man in Birmingham and another in Manchester.

The man held by police in Manchester has been identified as a Mr Gerry Small. All the men have been held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Scotland Yard detectives arrived in Birmingham last night to interview a student who had been detained at first light in Sparkhill area of the city.

An organization called the Irish Freedom Movement in London, which said: "We support the armed struggle to get Britain out of Northern Ireland", said hi name was Alan O'Dwyer and he was in his early twenties.

A member of the movement said Mr O'Dwyer was detained at 6.50am of the house of a friend. At the same time officers raided a house in London where he usually lived.

Mr O'Dwyer was being held at Sutton Coldfield police station. His detention followed a series of early morning raids on homes in the West Midlands.

Scotland Yard said yesterday there had been no change in the condition of the officers injured by Saturday's Provisional IRA blast, which killed five people.

Harrods announced the formation of the Knightsbridge Fund, for the benefit of victims and their relatives. The fund may be also be used for the victims of other terrorist attacks in the United Kingdom.

A spokesman for Harrods said the store and House of Fraser, which owns Harrods, have started the fund with £50,000. Lord Tonypandy, the former Speaker of the Commons, will be chairman of the trustees.

Contributions can be paid into any Barclays bank, to "the Knightsbridge Fund. Account number 10556661".

As the Yard investigation continued yesterday, a spokesman disclosed that the part-time car dealer who sold the Austin 1300 used for the bombing lives in west London.

The description of the buyer has proved so sparse that detectives are very unlikely to issue an artist's impression.

A man who had been held by the West Midlands police since December 15 was served with an exclusion order last night and it was expected he would be flown to Belfast.

Members of the Irish Freedom Movement protested yesterday outside Birmingham's main police station about the detention under the Prevention of Terrorism Act of Martin McAllister, aged 30, of Crossmaglen.

Mr McAllister was detained at Birmingham Airport when he arrived on a flight from Belfast. He said he was in Britain to by parts for his double-glazing business from an outlet in Coventry.

In the mid-1970s he was convicted of possessing arms and being a member of the IRA.

Cigarette prices up next month

By Derek Harris

The price of some tobacco is rising again, with 2p added to a pack of 20 cigarettes. Imperial Tobacco, Britain's biggest tobacco manufacturer, made the move yesterday and the other big makers are expected to follow suit soon.

Imperial is introducing the increases from January 23 with distributors benefitting from the rise as well as the company and the Inland Revenue.

There are 2p increases on 25 gramme packs of pipe tobacco and on several packs of small cigars. Larger cigars rise by between 1p to 2p each.

The recommended price of John Player Special King Size rises to £1.13 for 20, while Embassy Number 1 King Size goes up to £1.14. John Player Superkings rise by 3p to £1.13

British Aerospace may abandon Airbus project

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Sir Austin Pearce, chairman of British Aerospace, said yesterday that he would pull the company out of Airbus Industrie's plans to build a 150-seat airliner if the British Government failed to provide £437m of launch aid.

The aid he said, would be in the form of a deferred interest loan repayable by 1997, and British Aerospace would be contributing £200m to the European consortium from its own resources. It was essential that the Government made an early decision on the remainder. The aircraft, the A320, is due in service by 1988.

He said: "I am not prepared to see this company starved of finance just to get the A320 project going. We are going to protect our other projects in British Aerospace. We have got high technology skills and they need to be maintained."

British Aerospace, has a 20 per cent stake in Airbus Industrie with the French and West Germans as the other chief partners, has been frustrated by government hesitancy on the A320.

Sir Austin and Sir Raymond Lygo, the managing director, believe the delay has been caused by the Treasury's concern over the effect the granting of aid would have on the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement.

The A320 will complete the three-member Airbus family and provide increased competition to Boeing of the US.

It is planned as a super-efficient airliner for the 1990s to replace the world's present fleet of 3,500 noisy and fuel-inefficient medium-range aircraft. Airbus Industrie says emphasis will be placed on market appeal and describes the A320 as "the

Continued on back page, col 5

Dramatic reconciliation: Mr Arafat and President Mubarak in Cairo

Zimbabwe Air Force officers freed

From Our Correspondent Harare

The last three white Air Force officers detained in connexion with the Zimbabwean warplanes sabotage case were released here yesterday after 16 months' imprisonment.

Wing Commander John Cox, aged 36, Air Lieutenant Barrington Lloyd, aged 31, and Air Lieutenant Neville Weir, aged 24, walked out of the Chikurubi maximum security prison in Harare at 11.30. All three have been given orders of liberation stipulating that they leave the country within seven days.

A family friend of Wing Commander Cox, who was born in Dublin, said the airman intended to remain in Zimbabwe for several days to officially resign from the Air Force.

There is speculation that Wing Commander Cox's medical condition helped to bring forward the release. His wife, Sandy, said last week that he could lose the sight of one eye without laser treatment to stop internal bleeding. The treatment is not available in Zimbabwe.

The acting Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Simbi Mubako, said the men were being allowed to remain in Zimbabwe temporarily to wind up their affairs. They were released on the recommendation of the country's detention review tribunal, which reviewed their cases two weeks ago.

● Air Vice-Marshall Hugh Slatter, the most senior of the officers who acted as leader during the months in detention, said yesterday: "This is the best Christmas present the rest of us could have had" (Our Foreign Staff writes).

But, he added: "It must be remembered that they should never have been taken back to jail in the first place. They have lost 16 months out of their lives."

Air Vice-Marshall Slatter, Air Commodore Philip Pile and Air Lieutenant Nigel Lewis-Walker have been in Britain since being allowed to leave Zimbabwe. Wing Commander Briscoe left for the United States on Wednesday.

Commenting on the release, the Foreign Office in London said yesterday "This is a welcome development."

● Zimbabwe's Chief Justice, Telford Georges, has resigned after six months and is to take up the post of Chief Justice of the Bahamas next year (AP reports).

Egypt heals rift with Arafat

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

A profound change in the political complexion of the Middle East was signalled yesterday by the dramatic reconciliation between Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organization after an unexpected, two-hour private meeting in Cairo – between President Mubarak and Mr Yassir Arafat.

There was speculation that the rapprochement – the first of its kind since Egypt signed the Camp David treaty with Israel in March, 1979 – could assist in reviving the deadlocked Middle East peace process via renewed negotiations between the PLO and Jordan which could now enjoy Egyptian blessing.

The Reagan Administration is still hopeful of resurrecting its 1982 peace initiative, which is why it put strong pressure on Israel to permit the PLO evacuation from the northern Lebanese port of Tripoli to go ahead unhindered. Mr Arafat is apparently seen by the White House as having a key role to play.

But any hopes that the Cairo talks might herald a lifting of the deep pessimism surrounding peace prospects in the region was countered by bitter criticism by Israel, whose hawkish Prime Minister, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, was quick to express, "regret and astonishment" that the historic meeting had taken place.

One immediate result was to plunge Israeli-Egyptian relations to their lowest point since the Camp David treaty was signed. In his incredulous statement, Mr Shamir – one of the original Israeli opponents of the peace treaty – recalled that immediately after the murder of President Sadat, Mr Arafat and his supporters had danced for joy in the streets of Beirut.



Mr Shamir: Quick to express condemnation

Mr Shamir's outspoken attack was quickly followed by Israel's Foreign Ministry which alleged that the Cairo meeting, which had begun with a formal embrace between the two participants, was a "grave blow to the peace process".

The Foreign Ministry added: "There will be no peace or stablility in the Middle East until the murderous PLO disappears from the international scene."

The force of Israel's condemnation reflected deep concern here that Mr Arafat has succeeded in extricating his political credibility from the military defeat of Tripoli. The reconciliation was thought

Continued on back page, col 2

Eagle Star record bid is matched

West German insurer Alianz Versicherungs yesterday matched BAT industries record £934m takeover bid for Eagle Star Holdings, with a 675p per share offer to shareholders.

The bid from Allianz is the seventh in the fiercely contested battle for Eagle Star which began 10 weeks ago. Allianz made its lastest offer after the City Takeover Panel set a deadline of 4.30pm on December 30 for the final bidding. Last night Eagle Star said that although both bids were equal its board believes strongly that BAT is more appropriate parent

However the outcome of the bids was made more difficult to predict last night by reports that BAT and Allianz had arranged a meeting to discuss a way of resolving the battle before the December 30 deadline.

Finance and Industry, page 13

No police action on Waldorf officers

By Stewart Tendler and Thomson Prentice

The three London detectives involved in the mistaken shooting of Mr Steven Waldorf last January will not face disciplinary charges. The Police Complaints Board announced yesterday that they accepted a Scotland Yard report recommending no action.

Detective Constable Peter Finch and Detective Constable John Jardine, both aged 38, were acquitted by a jury at the Central Criminal Court in October of attempting to murder Mr Waldorf, a freelance film editor. They have been suspended from duty since January, and are now returning to work.

The third man mentioned in the report, Detective Constable John Deane, was not charged with any criminal offence and returned to duty after a short suspension. All three will be excluded from police firearms duties for the rest of their careers.

In a statement last night the Police Complaints Board said it endorsed a report sent to it by Deputy Commissioner Albert Laugharne, who has overall responsibility for discipline matters in the Metropolitan Police. The report had been based on an investigation by the complaints investigation bureau wich treated the case as a complaint by Mr Waldorf, although he never officially lodged one.

The board said no charge of abuse of authority, which would cover the use of unnecessary violence by a policeman, could be brought against Mr Jardine and Mr Finch as a result of their acquittal at the Central Criminal Court. Under section II of the Police Act 1976, disciplinary charges were precluded if they were in substance the same as those which had led to an acquittal.

Since charges would not be brought against the men who faced trial no disciplinary charge would be brought against the third officer.

It is understood that both the board and Mr Laugharne consulted counsel before making their final recommendations.

In a statement last night Scotland Yard said a decision on the future duties of the detectives would be taken in due course, but "they will not be called upon to use firearms again during their careers."

Scotland Yard is still negotiating with Mr Waldorf's legal advisers for compensation. Mr Waldorf, aged 27, was wounded five times by police bullets, and pistol-whipped as he lay injured after he was mistaken for a wanted man.

The statement said the police recognized Mr Waldorf had a claim against them.

At his parents' home last night, Mr Waldorf said: "The outcome is no more or less than I expected, but it can't be right".

Swedish hamlet may not welcome Santa back

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

Most of the 300 inhabitants of the Swedish village of Gesunda are all for Santa Claus. Others are more dubious and there is mounting opposition here to Mr Claus's projected arrival.

The bone of contention is the plan of Mr Mark McCormack, the American businessman and sports magnate, to establish in a patch of forest at the foot of a local mountain, Santaland, a tourist complex comprising *Father Christmas's home and* workshops and such garish additions as the Palace of the Snow Queen, a dinosaur park and a mail-order toy company.

The idea came from two Englishmen, Mr Ken Edwards and Mr Gerry O'Sullivan, who work for Mr McCormack's Leisure World International in London. It would produce a Swedish equivalent of Disneyland, but dedicated to Santa Claus, attracting both winter sports enthusiasts and summer tourists.

Gesunda, consisting of a few picturesque log cabins and farms, overlooks Siljan, one of Sweden's most beautiful lakes in the holiday area of Dalacarlia.

When Santaland is built, 25 acres of forest will be felled and the turrets of the Snow Queen's Palace will tower over the village.

The scheme has been given planning permission by an enthusiastic council and work is due to start in April. If all goes well, Santaland will be open for business by Christmas, 1984.

Mr Lennart Thorslund, a local councillor, backs the project. "The council will not be involved financially but a group has been working to get the scheme off the ground since 1981," he said. "It will be a quality investment, also involving children's charity organizations."

Mr McCormack: From sport to snow queens

There are hopes that thousands of letters from children all over the world, which at this time of the year arrive here, addressed simply to Father Christmas, Sweden, will be rerouted to Santaland and dealt with there.

Mrs Ann-Britt Persson, who works in Gesunda's only shop, said: "Our village is in dire need of employment, otherwise families here will not be able to stay together. Santaland will provide work and there will be opportunities for various services to be set up to cater for the complex."

But another villager, Mrs Siv Andersson, said: "I don't like the idea at all. Our nature will be ruined and no one has any idea how much we will actually benefit."

Santaland also faces opposition from Sweden's "Greens", the environmental party (Miljopartiet). Mrs Jill Lindgren, the chairman, said local activists were planning demonstrations.

Mr Ingemar Ljungqvist, a communist, was the only councillor of 47 to vote against the proposal. He condemned it as an attempt to import Coca-Cola culture into the area.

If the project survives, a big question remains: who will be Santa Claus? One Santa, as envisaged by the backers, would be a deviation from Swedish tradiiton which allows for many.

These *tomtar* (as they are known locally) arrive *en masse* on Christmas Eve, leaving presents in exchange for bowls of unappetizing cold rice pudding.

Workers at threatened shipyard support national strike call

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Workers at the threatened Scott Lithgow shipyard on the Clyde yesterday voted to support a national shipbuilding strike in the new year.

A mass meeting of about 2,000 of the 4,200 Scott Lithgow workforce yesterday backed the call for a national strike, repeated by union leaders on Wednesday night after British Shipbuilders refused to reopen negotiations unless the strike threat was lifted.

Mr Duncan McNeill, union convenor at Scott Lithgow, said after yesterday's meeting in Glasgow: "We don't relish the prospect of a strike, but if British Shipbuilders have made up their minds that we fit the bill at Scott Lithgow to solve over capacity, then it does not matter whether we are on strike or not."

In the Commons yesterday the Prime Minister emphasized the Government's refusal to be drawn into the dispute, and added: "I think the Government has already shown how much it is prepared to do for shipbuilding. Since 1979 British Shipbuilders have received some £850m.

Mr John Butcher, Under Secretary of State at the Department of Trade and Industry, later told MPs that the Government accepted that the closure of the Scott Lithgow yard would be devastating for workers and their families. "We recognize the implications could be appalling, and wider than the immediate financial loss to those affected", he said.

Earlier, Mr Peter Shore, shadow secretary for trade and industry, had called on the Government to make a final effort to avoid the strike threatened by the industry's 56,000 hourly-paid workers from January 6. "The holiday period now upon us should not be allowed to stand in the way of further efforts to reach and agreement. It would be criminal if this dispute, which has grave implications for the future of the industry, was allowed to proceed", Mr Shore said.

The strike has been called by the 17 unions in the industry in protest at British Shipbuilders' insistance that a £7 a week pay rise was contingent on agreement to a 10-point package of changes in long established working practices.

British Shipbuilders has said that acceptance of the productivity proposals is essential for the survival of the industry, but the unions have said that the management is asking for too much too quickly. British Shipbuilders has told the unions that any further talks on the dispute would be only to clarify the management's position on the survival plan and not to discuss changes in it.

Managers at Scott Lithgow, which is threatened with closure after the cancellation of an £86m order from Britoil for an oil rig, fear that the national strike could also jeopordize completion of a £60m rig for BP.

● Members of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, voted by a four to one majority in a shipyard ballots not to take part in the strike.

● Clerical and computer staff at British Shipbuilders yards in the North-west have decided not to take part in the strike.

● Union leaders at Smith's Dock on Teesside yesterday rejected management offers of local talks aimed at preventing the yard from being drawn into the strike. Management said they believed local negotiations could achieve a deal acceptable to the yard's 1,700 workers.

Signatures of surrender: Marian Cole, of the Imperial War Museum, showing the Instruments of Surrender signed by Argentina and Britain which went on display yesterday. The documents confirm the surrender of all Argentine forces in the Fakland Islands (left), South Georgia (centre), and Southern Thule. (Photograph: John Manning).

Academics face more pressure on jobs

By Julian Haviland
Political Editor

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, confirmed yesterday that he is continuing to press for university teachers to be more easily subject to dismissal than at present.

He has advised in the case of three universities or university institutions which have sought changes to their charters that they should be empowered to dismiss members of their academic staffs whom they wish to make redundant, unless an employment contract specifies otherwise.

The burden of his advice was disclosed in a parliamentary written answer given yesterday by Mr Peter Brooke a junior Minister at the Department of Education and Science.

Sir Keith first ran into trouble over the tenure of academic posts when he proposed large cuts in provision for the universities' expenditure in 1981. He discovered that the charters of the older universities allowed for staff to be dismissed or made redundant only on grounds of mental or physical incapacity, professional misconduct, or scandalous behaviour.

He was persuaded of the need to provide £100m over two years for a so-called "restructuring fund" to meet the demand for generous compensation terms for those taking redundancy.

Sir Keith's aim since then has been to reduce by steady pressure the relatively privileged status of academic staff.

Many university teachers are already engaged on fixed-term contracts, with no life tenure. Sir Keith wants to change the emphasis so that universities will remain free to give permanent positions to those of exceptional merit, but so that most academic staff will normally be subject to three month's notice, as in other professions.

Where the governing body of a university wishes to change its charter, the change requires the approval of the Privy Council, which in practice takes the advice of the secretary of state.

At present acccording to sources within the department, three institutions are seeking to retain, in altered charters, the traditions "good cause" rula which conveys indefinite tenure. In each case Sir Keith is resisting the perpetuation of a tradition to which he objects.

The three cases at issue are:

● The University College of Aberystwyth, which has been discussing a modern supplementary charter with the department for several years;

● The Institute of Education, which is owned by London University and is seeking a new charter so as to become a school of the university;

● The University of Sussex which, although founded as recently as 1961, is negotiating for changes in its charter and statutes, possesses the "good cause" rule and wishes to retain it.

Ambulance stolen

Two ambulancemen carrying out a patient from a hospital in Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, yesterday saw their ambulance being driven off. It was found about half a mile away undamaged but full of beer cans.

Boy, 16, on dynamite charges

Two of the 17 people detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act by Strathclyde police appeared at Glasgow Sheriff Court yesterday.

Donald Anderson, aged 46, and a boy aged 16, were charged with conspiring to further the aims of the Scottish Republican Socialist Party by violent means and with obtaining 70 sticks of dynamite.

They made no plea and were remanded in custody.

GPs oppose new deputies rule

Government proposals for restricting the use of deputizing services by general practitioners would mean the closure of most of the services and substantial disruption of the remainder, the British Medical Association has told Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Minister for Health.

Dr John Ball, chairman of the BMA's general medical services committee, says there would be a serious effect on service to patients if the minister's proposals were not radically modified.

Father and son found dead

A father and his son, aged eight months, were found dead yesterday in a wood at Lakenheath, Suffolk. Mr David Ross, aged 24, and his son Iain were in a car with a length of hose leading from the exhaust pipe.

The discovery ended a police search which began after the boy was abducted on Tuesday from the home of his mother in Mildenhall.

Tanker crash costs £14m

The collision between the Iranian tanker Sivand and the Immingham oil terminal in September will cost insurers £14m.

Damage to the terminal totalled £9m and it cost £5m to clear 6,000 tonnes of crude oil from the Humber.

Divorce move

Lord and Lady Allendale are to be divorced after 35 years. The suit is to be heard by special procedure in London soon. The Queen, the Queen Mother and the former Labour Prime Minister, Clement Attlee, were among guests at the couple's wedding.

Tourists scared

Fear over radioactive leaks from Sellafield nuclear plant has cost Cumbria £25m in lost tourist revenue, a tourist board official said yesterday. Plans for many new holiday schemes, such as caravan sites, had been scrapped.

Greenham protest

CND calls off demonstrations

By David Cross

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament has promised that it will not demonstrate in London during Christmas or new year so that the police can concentrate on hunting IRA terrorists.

CND said yesterday that the decision to postpone any demonstrastion had been taken after last week's Harrod's bombing, in which five people had died. Senior CND officials will meet next month, however, to plan continued protests.

In a statement issued on Tuesday after a CND protest in Trafalgar Square, Mrs Joan Ruddock, the organization's chairman, said that the small demonstration had been a spontaneous reaction to a rumour that a cruise missile was to be taken out of Greenham Common Air base. "We would not have called any major demonstration at this time and we fully support police effort to find the perpetrators of Saturday's appalling crime."

Mrs Ruddock was commenting on a statement by a police officer at the protest complaining that police resources were being diverted from the hunt for the IRA bombers.

In the Commons yesterday, Mrs Thatcher criticized the protest

● Two members of Catholic Peace Action, Mrs Sara Hipperson, aged 55, and Dr Ray Towey, aged 39, were jailed for seven days yesterday after refusing to be bound over by Bow Street Magistrates' Court to keep the peace (the Press Association reports).

They had chained themselves to pillars outside the Ministry of Defence building in London on October 11.

In the Commons yesterday, Mrs Thatcher criticized the protest and said that it would have been "nice gesture" if the organisers had called off Tuesday's demonstration.

The Prime Minister was replying to a question from Mr Tim Eggar, Conservative MP for Enfield North, who had condemned the protest for taking police officers away from street patrol duties.

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Women angered by 'eviction plan'

By a Staff Reporter

Greenham Common women are angry at what they regard as a coordinated Whitehall plan to evict them from their peace camp.

Miss Jane Hickman, lawyer representing the women said yesterday that it was unprecedented for a number of government departments to get together in peacetime to try to remove people who were using their democratic right to protest.

Miss Hickman was responding to the publication of a confedential memorandum drawn up by officials from the Department of Transport for a road widening scheme outside the air base near Newbury, Berkshire, where America cruise missiles are now kept.

The document, which was drawn up in September or October as a brief for a meeting of officials from the Thames Valley Police, suggested that private security firms could be used for the eviction of protesters from land required for the road-widening.

The memorandum says that the Department of Transport, which owns the land outside the main gate to the air base, is confident that it can "eliminate the peace movement women from our land to where Newbury district will have a reasonable chance of dealing with the camp with the help of their new by-laws".

Earlier this month, Newbury District council introduced new by-laws which would enable it to remove any structure which could be classified as a "building".

On Wednesday about fifty women were evicted from their tents by police and bailiffs. The encampment was rebuilt a few hours later.

The memorandum, which Whitehall officials described as the personal view of the officials who had drawn it up, described the Greenham women as "dirty and scruffy".

A spokeman for the Department of Transport said yesterday that Mrs Lynda Chalker, the Minister of State at the department, had never made any secret of the need to clear women from land outside the airbase when the road-widening scheme went ahead.

£1.5m more for policing air base

By David Nicholson-Lord

The Home Office denied yesterday that it was setting a precedent by awarding Thames Valley police an extra £1.5m to cover policing the Greenham Common airbase.

The decision was announced yesterday by Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, in recognition of what he called the "exceptional additional costs' of the Greenham operation, which has reached more than £3.7, this year.

The Thames Valley Police Authority refused last month a precept giving the force extra funds and demanded that the Government should pay the bill.

The Government has now raised its contribution from 65 per cent, through Home Office and rate support grant, to 75 per cent. The force's total budget is more than £66m.

The Home Office said that the aid could not be regarded as a precedent for other large-scale policing operations regarded at of a national rather than a local character.

Police to press for court costs

By Richard Dowden

Kent police are to apply to magistrates for administrative costs in bringing prosecutions, which could offset the police bill by between £100,000 and £500,000 a year.

The force said the scheme was to apply on behalf of the public for the costs of a procecution.

"It is of course up to the courts to decide who pays costs. It has been estimated that with the cost of police and clerical salaries and so forth, it costs £10 an hour for a guilty plea and £20 an hour for a not guilty plea. In those areas where the courts ask for an estimate of costs beforehand that is what we have told police oficers to apply for."

The force denied that there would be any attempt to press defendants into pleading guilty by warning them of the court costs."

Jenkin rules out cash for council study

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, refused yesterday to contribute towards the fee for an independent study on the cost of the abolition of the six English metropolitan counties.

He said that it was too soon to make a useful estimate, but took his criticism further in a letter to the leader of one of the threatened authorities.

His decision means that ratepayers in the counties will have to meet the £180,000 needed for a costing by Coopers & Lybrand, the management consultants. They have paid £40,000 for a critical study of the Government's abolition plan.

Mr Jenkin gave two reasons for not paying for the next part of the study. One was that a costing of abolition could not be done until plans had been made by the councils told to take over the work of those being abolished.

The other was the commission from the threatened councils to Coopers & Lybrand concentrated wholly on spending by the councils. That was only one reason for getting rid of them, Mr Jenkin said. The other was that they had "too few real functions" to justify their existence. The councils are Tyne and Wear, West Midlands, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and South and West Yorkshire.

Mr Jenkin questioned the basis of the consultants' study in a letter to Mr Bernard Clarke, leader of the Greater Manchester authority.

Mr Clarke said Mr Jenkin was worried about opposition to abolition. "I am dismayed that a minister should suggest that any independent assessment must be open to question while at the same time he is seeking to push his abolition plans through purely on the basis of broad estimates."

EEC job for Labour chief as dispute rumbles on

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

Mr Hubert Morgan, secretary and organizer of the Labour Party in Wales, is to become a special adviser to Mr Ivor Richard, the EEC Commissioner for Social Affairs, but a dispute over his successor is continuing.

Mr Morgan, aged 65, should have retired in October, but his departure has been delayed because of an increasingly bitter arguement over who should take his place.

In an unprecedented move, the national executive committee of the party refused to approve the staff negotiating committee's recommendation that the job should go to Miss Anita Gale, the assistant organizer in Wales.

Mr James Mortimer, the party general secretary, said: "The people of Wales preferred someone else", but Miss Gale countered: "How on earth does Mr Mortimer know what the people of Wales want."

The arguement started after Mr Barry Moore, a friend of and agent for Mr Kinnock who was favourite for the job, did not arrive for an interview

Social work strike to end soon

By Our Labour Editor

The four-month action involving residential social workers that has halted admissions to homes for the young, disabled and elderly is to end soon.

Delegates of the National and Local Government Officers' Association (Nalgo) voted yesterday to call off industrial action "as soon as possible" to allow their claim for a reduced working week and unsocial hours payments to go to a joint inquiry under the auspices of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

More than 25,000 Nalgo members have been banning admissions to munincipal homes since September 9; and 1,600 are on strike because of local intensification of the dispute. There will be a return to normal working by January 9 at the latest, "unless local disputes arising from the national campaign require continued industrial action".

Mr Michael Blick, chairman of the Nalgo local government committee, said: "The Acas proposal for a joint inquiry is by no means perfect. At the same time, we have at least succeeded in persuading the employers to talk to us about this justified claim

Decision deferred on WPC in equality case

By Tony Samstag

The policewoman who won her sex discrimination case against the Metropolitan Police on Wednesday is to remain on foot patrol in Fulham, west London, for the time being.

Scotland Yard said yesterday no decision would be taken on whether to return Woman Police Constable Wendy de Launay to traffic duty until it had received the formal written judgment and recommendations of the London South Industrial Tribunal.

The tribunal had ruled that WPC de Launay, who was banned from working with married male colleague last February, had been the victim of sexual discrimination and victimization when she lost her "posted partnership" with Police Constable Trevor Atfield.

The tribunal said yesterday that a written judgment normally takes about six weeks from the day of the verdict.

Burns given another term as Treasury adviser

By Jonathan Davis
Financial Correspondent

Sir Terence Burns, aged 39, was appointed yesterday for a further five-year term in the key government post of chief economic adviser to the Treasury at a salary of £39,500.

The reappointment means that Sir Terence who joined the Tresury at the start of 1980 from the London School of Economics, could still be in the post until 1990. His original term, which was extended by a year earlier this year, runs until the end of next year.

A committed and eloquent advocate of monetary control, Sir Terence has won a reputation inside Whitehall for his ability to provide advice and policy ideas in a broadly non-partisan way. He was knighted earlier this year.

His reappointment was announced by Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, alongside a further reshuffle of senior civil servants at the Treasury.

Mr John Anson, aged 53, the deputy secretary responsible for industry, is to succeed Mr Richard Wilding as deputy secretary in charge of general expenditure matters. Mr Wilding is to take charge of the office of arts and libraries in the Cabinet Office.



Sir Terence Burns: Non-partisan adviser

Mr Anson will be replaced by Mr Nicholas Monck, aged 48, who is being promoted from his post as under secretary responsible for the Treasury's home finance group.

Mr Monck, who was principal private secretary to Mr Denis Healey as Chancellor in 1976/77, will be succeeded by Mr Tim Lankester.

The problems of financing terrorism

By Richard Ford

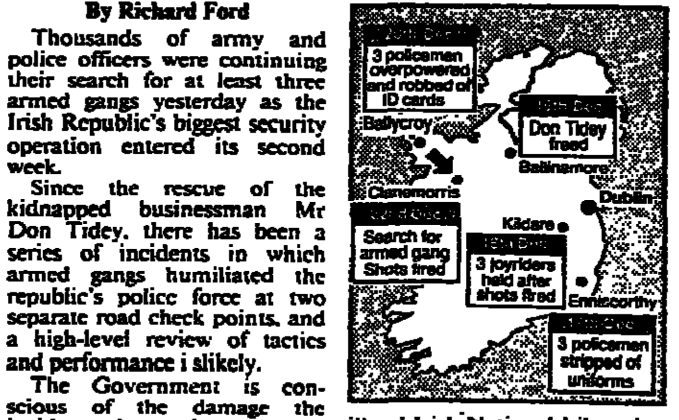
Thousands of army and police officers were continuing their search for at least three armed gangs yesterday as the Irish Republic's biggest security operation entered its second week.

Since the rescue of the kidnapped businessman Mr Don Tidey, there has been a series of incidents in which armed gangs humiliated the republic's police force at two separate road check points, and a high-level review of tactics and performance i slikely.

The Government is conscious of the damage the incidents have done to the republic's image abroad, but emphasizes that for the most part it is a peaceful country.

In the review, consideration will be given to arming the police and providing them with better radio contact, particularly in rural areas where many police stations close at night. It will also look at the operations of the Army's SAS-style Rangers and whether the Special Branch should have high velocity rifles as well as submachine guns.

The activities of Dominic McGlinchey, leader of the



illegal Irish National Liberation Army and Ireland's most wanted man, will also be considered, particularly as he is thought to have been involved in incidents in Sligo, Cork an Wexford in which policemen have been stripped of their uniforms.

The security forces fear these uniforms will be used in "spectacular" armed robberies to fund terrorism. The number of high powered weapons now being used by gangs in the rebuplic confirms that the violence is increasingly spilling over the border from Norther Ireland.

The republic's largely rural police force is not as effective as the Royal Ulster Constabulary, but has made great advances in recent year even though senior officers say it was not set up to tackle terrorism.

However, the Provisional IRA has attempted twice in four months to raise large sums of cash by kidnapping, a crime it has frowned upon in the past.

It admitted that the £5m demand for the safe release of Mr Tidey was "related to the struggle in the north", but it confirmed security force's suspicions that the organization is desperately short of money.

Millions of dollars have been given by the people of the United States through the Irish Northern Aid Committee, known as Noraid, which the US Justice Department says is the "major American source of funds for the Provisional IRA". But it is thought that the amount of cash coming from the United States has slowed considerably causing problems for an organization which needs an estimated £2m a year to run its political and military campaign.

This cash shortage comes at a time when the political wing, Provisional Sinn Fein, has expanded its operations in Northern Ireland to 25 advice centres complete with telephones.

Many of those working in these offices are unemployed young people drawing social security but Sinn Fein needs a great deal of money: it spent £31,000 in the June general election, compared with £25,000 by the Social Democratic and Labour Party whose own financial straits reduced party leader Mr John Hume to write to businessmen asking for assistance.

Provisional Sinn Fein has also bought a new centre in Andersonstown for £25,000, which Mr Gerry Adams, the MP for West Belfast, said had to be paid back within six months. He said the organization got its funds from raffles, donations, and even "cake fairs" plus the profits from *Republican News*, its newspaper, which claims to sell 48,000 copies a week.

The Provisional IRA is believed to have been behind armed bank robberies in the republic but after tougher security measures they switched to the softer target of post offices.

Soldier's death inquiry

The body of a soldier who died in South Georgia after going to a party has been flown home to Britain.

After a party, Sapper David Mead, aged 23, of the Royal Engineers, returned to hisa quarters but was found the next day dead on his bed.

The Ministry fo Defence set up an investigation after his commanding officer reported his "suspicious death".

The Army's Special Investigation Branch was asked to look into the death, but the ministry wanted the soldier's body to be brought back to Britain for specialist examination.

An RAF jet arrived at Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, earlier the week carrying the body.

Thames Valley police were told of the incident but they asked for a pathologist with Home Office status to make the first examination.

Overseas selling prices
Austria Sch 28; Belgium B frs 50; Canada $2.75; Canaries Pes 150; Cyprus 550 mils; Denmark Dkr 7.50; Finland Mk 8.00; France Frs 7.00; Germany DM 3.50; Greece Dr 100; Holland Gl 3.25; Irish Republic 40p; Italy L 2200; Luxembourg Lf 33; Madeira Esc 120; Morocco Dir 8.00; Norway Kr 7.50; Pakistan Rps 12; Portugal Esc 125; Singapore $6.50; Spain Pes 160; Sweden Skr 8.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Tunisia Din 0.700; USA $1.80; Yugoslavia Din 100



Bank customers face long queues in Christmas holiday action

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Many high street banks face serious disruption today as some counter clerks stage an afternoon walkout in protest at the loss of their Christmas "early closing" perk.

The Banking, Insurance and Finance Union yesterday reported that early returns from the provinces indicated growing support for its industrial action, and predicted that "tens of thousands" of its members would stop work after lunch.

A spokesman for the London clearing banks said the situation was likely to be patchy with some banks closed and others open. Long queues of irritated customers are expected at the banks still doing business. But the banks say their cash dispensing machines will be in working order during the holiday period.

The dispute is over the employers' decision that the traditional Christmas Eve half-day holiday is not applicable because today is not Christmas Eve. The banking union, which is affiliated to the TUC, carried out a secret ballot of its members which produced a 53 per cent majority for taking back by strike action the half-day holiday that they have enjoyed for the past decade.

An exception is the Co-operative Bank, which has offered a half-day in lieu for staff who continue working, and which has been exempted from the union's action.

The banking union claims that employers took away a half-day festive season holiday without agreement or negotiation. The banks agree that when the last trading day before Christmas falls on Christmas Eve, it is the custom to close at noon.

This year, however, Christmas Eve is on a day when bank staff have the whole day off, and only in 1977 did the banks bring down the shutters when December 23 fell on a Friday. And that policy met with public protest.

Mr Leif Mills, the general secretary of BIFU, said yesterday: "We expect some 80,000 members to withdraw their labour tomorrow and a considerable number of non-members are joining the action with us, – particulary in Lloyds Bank".

He said there would be many hundreds of banks closed, and many others capable of giving only a skeleton service.

But a spokesman for the clearing banks said most would remain open today. Of the 241,000 people employed in the industry, only 24,000 voted to strike. The level of disruption would therefore depend on how many staff at each branch belonged to BIFU, and how many heeded the instruction to stop work.

Poison warning over fake 'fresh' turkeys

Consumer experts say that thousands of turkeys could be the cause of food poisoning because some shopkeepers are defrosting frozen poultry and selling it as freshly killed.

If the birds are taken home and frozen again, bacteria will multiply, there could even be a food poisoning epidemic, West Midlands County Council's consumer services department says.

The department has sent urgent warnings to all local authorities after "stumbling across" the practice in one shop a few days ago. Since then more than twenty shops in the Birmingham area have been discovered doing the same thing.

The department said: "We advise anyone who has bought such birds and refrozen them to throw them away". Tell-tale signs are frost or water inside the bird.

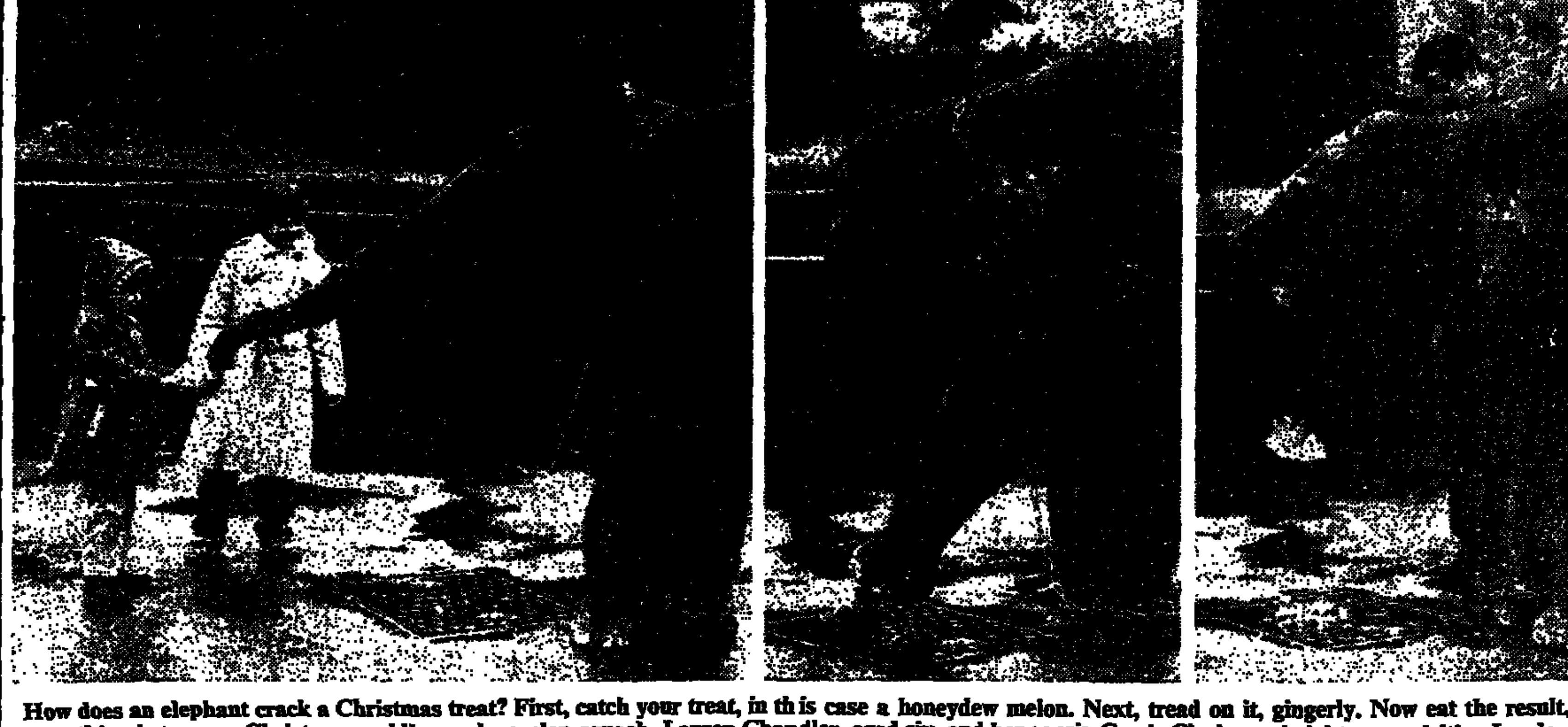
● A woman who hung a holly wreath on her front door found that rain water made the berries turn green. She complained to the West Sussex trading standards officer who said the berries were green peas painted red.

● Mr Fred Kennington, aged 76, is to keep his job as Father Christmas inspite of hitting a boy at his grotto. Mr Kennington had been checked by one boy and hit out, but the lad ducked, and Mr Kennington hit an innocent boy behind. The police were told but the matter was dropped and Mr Kennington is to keep his job at the Pentagon shopping centre in Chatham, Kent.

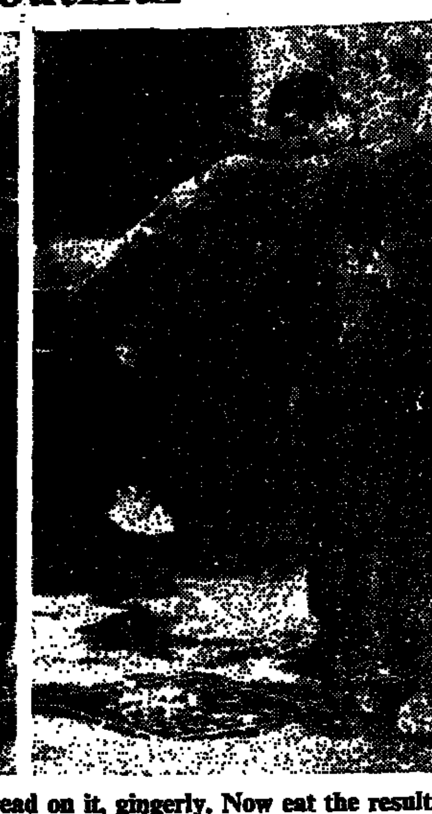
● Orkney islanders have received a free supply of "yule logs" by accident. The untreated timbers was washed ashore on the island of Bursay after falling from a ship bound for Norway.

● A rampaging bull caused chaos among Christmas shoppers yesterday after escaping as it was being led into a slaughter house in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire. It attacked two abattoir workers, then leapt over a 5ft wall and charged shoppers. It was shot dead by police.

Dilberta finds melon squash quite a mouthful







How does an elephant crack a Christmas treat? First, catch your treat, in this case a honeydew melon. Next, tread on it, gingerly. Now eat the result, something between a Christmas pudding and a melon squash. Lauren Chandler, aged six, and her cousin Carrie Clark, aged eight, were visiting London Zoo at Regent's Park yesterday when Dilberta the elephant (with her keeper, Mr Joe Haddock) set to. (Photographs: John Voos).

£130m festive tips to share

By Robin Young

In the season of goodwill and considerable largesse something in the order of £130m will be changing hands as seasonal tips, gratuities and Christmas boxes. That excludes regular tips and service charges, and the cash value of gifts and presents in kind, which are likely to include some four million bottles of wines and spirits, perhaps a million cigarettes, and 200,000 lunches.

Those results are extrapolated from a limited survey of Christmas tipping habits carried out among my colleagues at *The Times* and my neighbours in Hackney, London's poorest borough.

On average Hackney residents gave larger tips and Christmas boxes than *Times* staff, but they gave to fewer recipients. While *Times* people claimed that they would be parting with an average of £8.57½ this Christmas, the average expectetion in Hackney was that the bill for seasonal goodwill would amount to £7.84. In both groups men were appreciably more generous tippers than women.

The most comonly tipped group were newspaper delivery boys and girls, who could expect to receive something from just more than three-quarters of respondent households. This was half as many as would be tipping the next most popular groups who were, in order, the dustmen and milkmen. Postmen could expect a Christmas box from only a third of our respondents.

All those groups except the newspaper boys and girls were going to be tipped more generously in Hackney than by *Times* staff. On the other hand my newspaper colleagues' expenditure was increased by handouts to a wide variety of cleaning ladies, who scooped the pool for biggest tips, nannies, window cleaners, secretaries, car park attendants and railway station staff.

Both the biggest and the smallest totals were dispensed by *Times* staff members. The top was £100, and the lowest £1, of which the gift giver admitted 50p was hypothetical and dependent on the potential recipient asking for it.

Dustmen can expect to receive from nothing to £20 ("there are five of them"); cleaning ladies, where employed, seldom less than £5; and milkmen never more than £5. One postman has received £10, but no others were down for more than £2. It was commonly pleaded that "they are all casuals at Christmas" or "I never see them anyway".

Few people looked with favour on collecting boxes, bearing seasonal greetings from the staff, strategically placed on retail shop counters, though a few respondents said they would expect to put up to 50p in as many as four of these. Butchers were reckoned noticeably more tipworthy than any other shop-tending group.

Seldom considered groups to whom appreciation will rarely be shown include street cleaners, launderette ladies, garage mechanics, coalmen and telephonists.

The average tip for all recipients (counting dustmen as one) was £1.23. Hackney households mostly expected to give four tips and seldom more than six. *Times* staff claimed to give an average of just more than eight tips per household, but the range varied from one to seventeen.

Attitudes to tipping varied widely from "everybody regular gets £5" (*Times* executive) to "nobody with whom I have a commercial contractual relationship gets a penny extra" (*Times* editorial staff). Some men were vague about tipping: "I think my wife attends to the milkman", was all one could offer. Another recalled being trapped by the postman, proffering a £5 note and asking, unsuccessfully, for change

The most defiant attitude was among those who refuse to tip dustmen (a surprising 48 per cent). "If I gave the dustmen a bottle of whisky they would probably do what they do with everything else, drop it in the drive", one said.

Whitehall caterers face competition

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Civil Service catering is to be thrown open to competition from private firms, in an attempt to get better value for the £14m annual subsidy towards the food and drink consumed at work by government employees.

Government departments resoponsible for the 680 official restaurants and canteens all over Britain are to be allowed to choose between outside contractors and the Civil Service Castering Organization (CISCO).

Plant and equipment will continue to be povided by the departments concerned and the Government is to spend an extra £1.65m a year for the next five years to improve facilities.

The changes, announced yesterday by Mr Barney Heyhoe, Minister of State at the Treasury, came after an official scrutiny of the system in February, which found that only 35 per cent of civil servants used available staff facilities.

The scrutineers, including Miss Sybil Barnes, head of catering for Marks & Spencer, stated then: "The prodominant picture is one of inefficient, out-of-date kitchens and comfortless dining rooms."

The Government then decided to launch a £1m series of pilot projects to look at other ways of catering the service.

Mr Hayhoe said in his Commons written reply yesterday that under the new plans, CISCO will retain overall central control to ensure consistency of standards among Civil Serviee facilities. But he added: "It is the intention that contractors and CISCO should compete for departmental catering work on an equal footing".

CISCO, which will continue to charge the departments for advice, guideance and, where it appropriate, for the provision of services, is to be established as a trading fund

Side light ruling on new cars

By Our Transport Editor

Driving on sidelights only will be illegal on new cars delivered after 1986 under regulations laid before Parliament yesterday.

It will be possible to park cars with sidelights only, but once the ignition is switched on the choice will be between dim-dip (dipped headlights with reduced light), full dip and undipped.

Announcing the regulations yesterday, Mrs Lynda Chalker, *Minister of State for Transport*, said they followed favourable consultation with motoring organizations.

The regulations will not apply to existing cars or to motor cycles; but the Transport and Road Research Laboratory is to investigate their possible application to motorcycles.

Palace deal ruled out

The Prince and Princess of Wales are definitely not interested in buying Marlborough House, the former royal palace in Pall Mall, as a new London home, Buckingham Palace said yesterday.

The building, last used as a palace in 1953 and occupied for the past 20 years by the Commonwealth Secretariat, does not have a single bathroom.

Pupils expelled for taking drugs

Four boys and two girls have been expelled from Bromsgrove School, Hereford and Worcester, for smoking cannabis.

Two other pupils have been cleared after an inquiry by West Mercia Police and one remains suspended. No decision has been made about whether the children will be prosecuted.

Jaguar call

Jaguar Cars is to recall 4,200 V12-engined Jaguar-Daimler saloons and XJS coupés in Britain for modifications to the fuel system. A spokesman said leaks at high pressure points had been reported.

Prince helps

The Prince of Wales is converting a barn at his Highgrove estate in Gloucestershire into five workships for small businesses. The tenants will include a porcelain restorer and a woodworker.

Bugsy's tour

The musical *Bugsy Malone* is to go on a national tour after it ends its West End run at Her Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket, on February 11.

Councillor lied to get top job

By a Staff Reporter

A Labour councillor's lie has cost her a £21,000-a-year job as head of Merseyside Enterprise Board.

Lady (Carol) Yapp, was offered the post after an interview on Tuesday, but the offer was withdrawn when she admitted that she had lied about her qualifications.

The deceit of her claim to hold a BA (Economics) degree from Birmingham University was discovered after a telephone call was received in Merseyside from West Midlands county headquarters, where Lady Yapp is a county councillor.

Lady Yapp said yesterday that the lie was no more than a "foolish transgression". She said her failure to complete her degree course lay in tragic personal circumstances and added:

"What is more serious is the question why was the whole might of the local government officer system used to ensure that I was not appointed, even though my skills and expertise remain relevant."

Lady Yapp has been closely involved in the working West Midlands Enterprise Board, which aims to create about 5,000 jobs a year. But its first annual report, published recently, showed a loss of £700,000.

Mr Keva Coombes, the Labour leader of Merseyside County Council, denied that "the system" had cost her the job.

He said: "Nobody is entitled to get a job on the basis of lies. I feel angry about this. It was a stupid act and it is not a technical irregularity to tell lies. There could have been no question of her getting the job."

He said that she was offered the post subject to certain conditions, including a medical examination, the checking of qualifications, and the taking up of references.

But after the call from the West Midlands, Mr Coombes questioned Lady Yapp. He said: "She admitted immediately that she did not have the qualifications. The job offer was withdrawn. That was not by mutual consent, as she has claimed, for she obviously could not carry on."

Lady Yapp, aged 39, is divorced from Sir Stanley Yapp, chairman of West Midlands County Council, who remarried earlier this year.

Last-minute police plea to drivers

By a Staff Reporter

A last-minute appeal to motorists not to drink and drive this Christmas has been made by Mr Roger Birch, a police association spokesman on traffic matters.

Mr Birch, who is chairman of the traffic committee of the Association of Chief Police Officers and Chief Constables of Sussex, said: "The enormous amount of publicity on this subject for the last two weeks demonstrates how concerned the nation is at the tragedies and hardship drink driving causes.

"The point is that a few weak and selfish people, for the sake of that extra drink, are prepared to jeopardize the lives of others as well as their own.

"There is only one real answer: don't drink and drive,

Police 'tried to help' alcoholic

By Craig Seton

Social workers and police in Dorset replied yesterday to criticism that nothing had been done to help Mrs Daisy Robbins, a widow aged 67, who was found dead an hour before she was due in court on a £1.20 shoplifting charge.

Mrs Robbins, who was described as a chronic alcoholic, was found in a chair with an empty glass by her side at her home in Blandford, Dorset, on Wednesday, shortly before she was due to appear before magistrates, charged with stealing tea and chocolate from a Keymarket store. She had left a note which said: "No one loves me, no one cares, so good bye".

Dorset police said that the prosecution against Mrs Robbins had been initiated by the police in order to help her. She had had many problems and had left six suicide notes over the past two years.

Supt Hayne Russell said yesterday: "Each case is dealt with on its merits. When the police prosecute they not only present evidence but can also offer up other factors which could help people like Mrs Robbins."

Mr Adrian Blunt, a social services team leader, said: "We tried to help her many times. We approached her to try to get her into an old folks' home, but she refused to go."

Princess's secretary leaves

By David Nicholson-Lord

Mr Oliver Everett, the Princess of Wales's private secretary, is leaving his post to become deputy librarian to the Queen, Buckingham Palace announced yesterday. The move comes after suggestions of a personality clash between the Princess and Mr Everett, leading to several bitter arguments.

The palace declined to comment on the reports yesterday, describing them as "purely speculative". A spokesman added: "It is simply a career choice of Mr Everett's."

The appointment has been made on the understanding that Mr Everett, aged 40, will take over the job of librarian and assistant keeper of the Queen's archives when Sir Robin Mackworth-Young retires.

Mr Everett, who was reported to be on the point of resignation, was formerly the Prince of Wales's assistant private secretary and has been with the Princess since shortly after their wedding. He takes up his new post at Windsor Castle on January 1.

Mr Edward Adeane, the Prince's private secretary, will now act in this capacity to both the Prince and Princess.

Joiner led double life as burglar

From Our Correspondent
York

The double life of a craftsman joiner who burgled his customers, friends and relatives, was disclosed in York Crown Court yesterday.

Keith Magson, aged 31, of Huntington, near York, admitted more than 180 offences of burglary and deception. He was jailed for three years.

Mr Peter Charlesworth, for the prosecution, said that Magson's victims during his one-man crime wave included his best man and the vicar, as well as customers of his family joinery firm, which meant he was sometimes employed to repair the damage he had caused breaking in. His "haul" was said to be worth £60,000.

Four policemen were said to have taken two hours to remove £20,000 worth of stolen goods from Magson's house. Cheque books and bank cards were also stolen and Magson forged cheques to obtain hundreds of pounds.

But the court was told that Magson spent none of the proceeds of his burglaries on himself or his family, who knew nothing of his criminal activities. Instead, he saved more than £6,000

Cable TV gets more channels

By Bill Johnstone
Electronics Correspondent

Eleven companies have been given approval by the Government to expand their existing cable television networks, enabling them to provide about four new channels to their subscribers as early as next month.

The networks are used to provide about two million people in Britain with the four broadcast channels because of reception difficulties. The cable companies will remain responsible for ensuring that subscribers to their networks can receive all the broadcast signals in addition to any other channels offered on the expanded services.

The approved companies are British Telecom (Irvine, Milton Keynes and Washington); Cablevision (Southall); Cablevision (Wellingborough); Greenwich Cablevision; Philips Cable Television (Northampton and Tredegar); Radio Rentals (eight areas); Rediffusion Consumer Electronics (53 areas); Telefusion (areas yet unspecified); Teleline (Princes Risborough and Wendover); Visionhire Cable (areas yet to be specified) and West Wales Aerials (Llandeilo).

The networks are in addition to the 11 new networks given conditional franchises by the Government about a month ago to operate with about 30 channels. The new multichannel networks will not be operational for about 18 months, but the networks given approval yesterday will be able to upgrade their systems almost immediately.

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, outlined the details in a written parliamentary answer







£21,000 for Sellafield death family

By A Staff Reporter

The first payment under a voluntary compensation scheme for deaths that might have been induced by radiation was announced yesterday by British Nuclear Fuels and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

Dependants of a former worker at the company's Sellafield (formerly Windscale) nuclear power staion had been paid £21,645, the joint statement said, in respect of his death from leukaemia in 1965.

The dependants could have taken their case to court, but any decision would have been on an "all or nothing" basis, according to the court's assessment of the probability that the death was caused by radiation.

The voluntary procedure, set up a year ago, is designed to take into account varying degrees of probability, with provision for the payment of percentages of full compensation. The amount awarded represented a half of full compensation, the company said.



Party spirit: Sitel Odedra, aged 2½, with Mr Kinnock

Kinnock defends council

Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Labour Party, bounced a child on his knee at a day nursery in Hackney, London, yesterday, and said: "These are the people at the cutting edge of the cuts".

He was visiting some of the facilities which the Hackney council says will be closed if the Government proceeds with its plans to reduce borough spending by £21.6m.

On Wednesday a High Court judge gave the borough leave to go to court to challenge the new spending targets set for Hackney by Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment.

Mr Kinnock, speaking at the Leswin Road nursery in Stoke Newington, defended the council's spending record. Vital services to the young, the elderly and the handicapped had to be protected, he said.

Art thief posed as lord to dealers

American art dealers were offered works stolen from the Royal Academy by Sacheverall Houghton, Southwark Crown Court was told yesterday.

Houghton, aged 44, from Wandsworth, south London, passed himself off as "Lord Gordonstone", Mr Gerald Gordon, for the prosecution, said.

"He often used another name of De Houghton and he would ask dealers if they would like to visit the library at his ancestral home to see the paintings and prints.

"But if there was a danger of people coming to visit, Houghton would say the family home could not be the venue because of restoration work," Mr Gordon said.

Houghton admitted stealing Giovane Batista Piranesie prints valued at £17,000 from the Royal Academy, paintings valued at £15,000 from the Bishop Otter College, Chichester, and obtaining money by deceptiom from two London dealers. He was jailed for seven years

Michael Cotgrove, aged 37, a carpenter from Canvey Island, Essex, described by the judge as "the victim of a plausible rogue", was jailed for two years.

Clash over coin

Thatcher saves the pound note

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Prime Minister appeared yesterday to have rescued the £1 note from the clutches of the Treasury. Leading from the front, in the style which she has on occasion demonstrated before, she told Mr Marcus Fox, Conservative MP for Shipley, that she had reason to believe that the note would be retained.

Mrs Thatcher did not say for how long, and a wise politician never says never, and a week is a long time in politics. But Mr Fox, who sat up till after 1am on Wednesday in the vain hope of wringing an equal reassurance out of a Treasury minister, heard all he wanted. He now believes, to coin a phrase, that the pound note is safe with the Prime Minister.

When he first raised the question Mr Fox accused the Treasury of contemplating a "little dirty work at the crossroads" to spirit the note away and leave only the coin.

In the Lords on Tuesday a minister, Lord Glenarthur, caused alarm when he said the Government meant to withdraw the note "in due course", and complained that it cost a great deal of money to keep pound notes in circulation. He said a £1 note lasted about 11 months, and the £1 coin introduced this year would last about 40 years.

On Wednesday morning Mr Fox said the £1 note was "central to everything" and begged Mr Ian Stewart, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, to promise that it would live.

But Mr Stewart was canny. If the note was under threat, he said, the threat came from the way in which it was misused by the public. Instead of being carefully placed in wallets it was now "frequently stuffed into pockets and purses". The result had been a serious deterioration of notes in circulation.

● There may be ways of producing a £1 note that has a longer life than the present model, a Treasury spokesman said last night after the Prime Minister's comment (Kenneth Gosling writes).

But it is still government policy, the Treasury insisted, that the note should be phased out in favour of the coin. When that will happen is not clear. "We have to assess it as we go along", it said.

But it is not intended to introduce a plastic note on the lines of that of that in use, – and apparently highly popular, on the Isle of Man. There have been security objections to it does not have a watermark or a metal thread.

Mr John Field, chairman of Bradbury, Wilkinson, the banknote company that developed the note in collaboration with Du Pont, the US chemical company, admitted that that was the main drawback, although being a low denomination there was less risk of this happening with the plastic £1.

"We do lots of other things to the paper that makes forgery difficult", he said. The Bank of England's own printing works takes care of production and research. Mr Field said his company enjoyed a good relationship with the bank.

"They are fully aware of what we do and what is available", he said. "We do talk about it quite a lot".

There are about 550,000 of the plastic notes, in the Isle of Man. The island's auditor, Mr Christopher Tovell, said he had been utterly astonished at local reaction since the note arrived a month ago.

As for the £1 coins, the Royal Mint says there are 148 million in circulation. Demand has vision in the run up to Christmas.

Mrs Jacky Butcher, the mint's public relations manager, said large numbers, as with all new coins, had been "piggy-banked". The coins, she said, were still being minted at the rate to be anticipated considering they were intended to replace the present note and were not a new denomination altogether.

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PARLIAMENT December 22 1983

Economic good cheer from Chancellor

THE ECONOMY

The recovery that was occurring in the economy was giving great cheer to the British people and great despondency to the Labour Party, Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said in the Commons shortly before the House adjourned for its Christmas recess.

He said that provided the Government maintained firm control of public expenditure he remained confident that it would be able to reduce the level of taxation during the lifetime of this Parliament.

He agreed it was particularly bad that the poor should pay such a large proportion of their income in taxation and there was a strong case for raising the tax thresholds as soon as he had headroom to do so responsibly.

Mr Lawson said output this year was expected to be about 3 per cent higher than last year and there was room for cautious satisfaction that the rate of unemployment now appeared to have levelled off.

Mr David Alton (Liverpool, Mossley Hill, L) said that if CBI figures were right, growth would only be 2 per cent and that would mean stabilizing at the present level of unemployment.

Mr Lawson: Of course there is concern about the level of unemployment but employment is rising for the first time since the recession began.

The Treasury has made its best forecast and its track record is considerably better than outside bodies. The forecast of the European Commission is that our growth next year will be higher than any country in the Community, as indeed it has been this year.

Mr Ian Lloyd (Havant, C): In the context of comments this (Thursday) morning on the radio on the favourable OECD report on Britain's economy, did he hear the grotesque piece of economic blasphemy by Mr Roy Hattersley, the shadow chancellor which amounted to a rag bag of discredited policies. Rather than the Sermon on the Mount it was more like one on Mount Desolation.

Mr Lawson: He is right. Of course Mr Hattersley's record as a forecaster is well known. We remember, for example, that during the election campaign he said there was no doubt inflation would be in double figures by the end of this year if the Government remained in office.

Mr Jack Straw (Blackburn, Lab): None of the major industrialized countries suffered a greater collapse in industrial and manufacturing output than under this Government between 1979 and 1983. When will manufacturing output return to its level of May 1979 – before or after 1990?

Mr Lawson: I do not know when manufacturing output is going to be at the 1979 level. What is encouraging is that output as a whole in this country is already back to the level it was at the peak in 1979 and is continuing to rise.

Mr Alan Howarth (Stratford-on-Avon, C): Having regard to the present rates of growth in the UK economy, he recently assumed the duties of Father Christmas and having regard to prospective rates of growth, will he now go further and as Fairy Godmother wave his magic wand to endow our friends in the United States with a mediumn-term finanical strategy?

Mr Lawson: Not being in possession of a magic wand, I am afraid I am unable to peform that miracle, although it would be very desirable if it were to be brought about. I am grateful for the role in which he casts me. It is rather better than the Ghost of Christmas Past which was that adopted by Mr Hattersley on the wireless this morning.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham, Selly Oak, C) said that now the economy showed real signs of growth. As Mr Lawson gave his mind to tax reductions, it would be important to raise the tax threshold so that those on the lowest incomes were relieved of their problems.

Mr Lawson told him that there was a strong case for raising the tax thresholds as soon as he had headroom to do so responsibly, but the only solution (he said) is to have firm control of public spending, something the Opposition is antipathetic too.

Mr Alfred Dubs (Battersea, Lab) said that the Cabinet was going through desperate contortions to try to reduce taxes next April. If this were achieved, it would be at the expense of pensioners, who could not afford to pay their electricity bills, people on housing benefit and those who desperately needed decent local government services which would be cut because of the Government's economic policies.

Mr Lawson said the Government's expenditure plans for 1984-85 were a prudent compromise between what was necessary to maintain essential public services and to maintain a gradually declining proportion of total national output accounted for by public spending for the benefit of the economy and to give room for tax decreases over the lifetime of this Parliament.

Sir William Clark (Croydon South, C) said Mr Hattersley had advocated on the radio tax reductions at the same time as an increase in public spending. That sort of policy would be disastrous for the economy. It would not only increase overspending but increase interest rates. This would hit industry and cause more job losses.

Mr Lawson: He is right. It would lead to a resurgence in the inflationary spiral which happened when Labour was last in office.

Mr Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley, L) said the increase in gross domestic product should enable the Chancellor to allow more public sector borrowing than he previously intended. This would make leeway for urgently needed cuts in taxes on jobs and on low pay.

Mr Lawsen said he was glad Mr Wainwright, in contrast to Labour, sought lower taxation. The economy and the nation needed this.

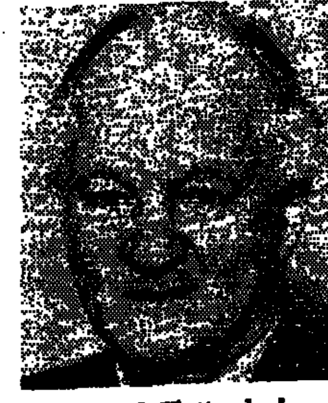
But (he added) the level of public borrowing still needs to be brought down as a proportion of GDP.

Mr Lawson added later: I am hopeful that over the next three years to be able to maintain the total volume of public expenditure constant in real terms.

Dr Oonagh McDonald (Thurrock, Lab), an Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, said it would be better to look at the comparison with the American growth rate, expected to be 5 per cent next year and brought about by policies which the Prime Minister so viciously condemned recently.

Mr Lawson: I am pleased, if a bit surprised, to see her enthusiasm for President Reagan and his policies. (Conservative cheers). It is not evident every day in the House.

The Americans have followed a tight control of the money supply,



Lloyd: Hattersley's economic blasphemy

not of the fiscal deficit. They have another advantage – there is no Socialist party in the United States.

Mr Kenneth Carlisle (Lincoln, C) asked whether the Chancellor had any further evidence of a recovery in investment in the United Kingdom.

Mr Lawson: Total investment in the first three quarters of this year is estimated to have been about 4½ per cent higher than in the same period last year. The December Department of Industry intentions survey points to a 7 per cent increase in industrial investment next year, including a 9 per cent increase in manufacturing.

Mr Carlisle: Would he agree that if this trend is to be consolidated in the new year not only will profits have to continue to increase but it is essential that interest rates start to come down again?

Mr Lawson: I share the importance he attaches to the level of interest rates. That is why the Government is determined to keep public borrowing under control and keep them falling as a proportion of gross domestic product.

One of the most encouraging aspects of this particular recovery has been the sharp increase in company profitability.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, OUP): Is not the reduced level of UK surplus on current account in 1983 an indication that less British capital was being exported in that year than previously?

Mr Lawson: He is right. Because the balance of payment has to sum up to zero overall it must follow as a logical necessity. However, he will have noticed the recent revision by the Statistical Office, a sharp upward review of invisible earnings over the first nine months, which makes it clear that the current account surplus this year will be significantly higher than forecast in the autumn statement.

Tory MPs attack rates capping Bill

LOCAL FINANCE

After the Prime Minister had earlier described the Bill on rate capping as overwhelmingly popular among ratepayers, a number of MPs, including Conservatives, protested about the proposed legislation.

During questions to Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, following the statement outlining future business Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, said: The Opposition on both sides will be resisting the second reading of the Rates Bill because it would make major constitutional changes and undermine a long history of local and localized democracy which this House should defend.

Mr Geoffrey Rippon (Hexham, C) asked: Will he consider withdrawing the second reading of the Rates Bill and having a debate instead on the Government's proposals for reforming the rating system? (Loud Conservative cheers)

Is it because the Government is ashamed of the Rates Bill that it has published it just before Christmas and is to debate it immediately after Christmas?

This is a deplorable Bill which raises major constitutional issues. It is a classic example of elective dictatorship. Will he at least give an assurance that because of its constitutional importance the committee stage will be debated on the floor of the House? (Renewed cheers)

Mr Biffen: Mr Rippon is a privy councillor and therefore has a reasonable expectation of being called in the debate on January 17. I cannot understand why he feels it necessary to make a preliminary speech now.

Mr Edward Taylor (Southend East, C) asked him to make clear that the Government was not prepared to allow the appalling anomaly under which agriculture was not subject to rates to continue.

Mr Biffen: I will refer that to the minister in charge of the legislation (Mr Patrick Jenkin) but I have an inkling that he has quite enough trouble already. (Laughter)

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham, Selly Oak, C): Surely this Bill is a constitutional Bill although the Government says we are a unitary country.

If we are going to have local government run by selected civil servants and the Government in a majority on every council in the land, if that is not a constitutional issue will he say what is?

Is it not time the Governm;ent instead of trying to hurry this squalid little Bill through gave an absolute right to the House to discuss this constitutional issue in full committee on the floor of the House? (Cheers)

Mr Biffen: The decision whether or not it should be considered in committee on the floor of the House will be for the House to vote upon.

Mr Alfred Dubs (Battersea, Lab), said it was likely the Government would have great difficulty in getting the legislation through the Lords. He asked Mr Biffen to confirm that there was no intention on the Government's part of having the Rates Bill deemed to be a financial measure so that the Lords debate was severely truncated.

Mr Biffen: So far as the ease and speed with which this legislation will be secured, in politics it is always wise to travel hopefully. I think Mr Dubs will find his deeper anxieties unfounded.

Earlier, Mr Harvey Proctor (Billericay, C) pointed out to the Prime Minister that 60 per cent of rates came from non-domestic ratepayers who had no direct influence on local elections.

Would she not agree (he went on), that the Government has an ultimate responsibility to protect business, commerce and households from excessive rate burdens

Mrs Thatcher: Only a minority of the electorate pay rates: that is one of the worrying things about the system. Many industrial and commercial enterprises are not represented in any way on the voting register of the authority to which they pay rates.

Provision for those in need

PM's QUESTIONS

The Opposition should accept that it was necessary to have good management of resources and to live within a budget, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during question time exchanges in the Commons.

Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab) had said it was a pity that she would not be able to visit his constituency to see the devastating effect that her economic and social policies were having.

In addition to the unemployment rate there were 27,000 people on social security and 65 per cent of tenants were receiving income support because of housing costs.

While she was eating her Christmas dinner would she think of those people in Newham who could not afford to keep warm and the 44,000 others who would die of hyperthermia during next year? Would she show some remorse?

Mrs Thatcher: By what he said earlier he himself gave evidence that those who are in need are provided for. The pension is higher than previously. Under us pensioners get a Christmas bonus which they did not always get under Labour. There is higher spending on the national health service and a record amount of help in fuel for those who need it.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition (Islwyn, Lab): She constantly emphasizes the value of personal thrift. We were all brought up to respect and practise prudence. If the Prime Minister, after a lifetime of economy or as a consequence of a small occupational pension, were to lose between £1 and £5 a week in housing benefit how would she feel this Christmas?

Mrs Thatcher: He neglects to remember that we are spending £3,400m on housing benefit and that it goes to one household in three. He also neglects to remember that we have one million pensioners who gained £1 a week when housing benefit was introduced.

The great majority of those and no one on supplementary benefit will be affected by the changes in housing benefit.

Mr Kinnock: Yet again she refuses to answer the question. Will she admit that the reason for the rise in social security expenditure is almost entirely attributable to the demographic change which has resulted in more pensioners and the vast increase in unemployment and under-employment as a result of her economic policies?

How would she feel if, for no other reason than the dogmatism of the Government and obedience to unrealistic spending targets, she was to lose between £1 and £5 a week



Banks: Would she show some remorse?

having saved and scrimped and shown frugality to provide for old age?

Mrs Thatcher: Occupational pensioners will lose, especially through the taper. The amounts have been given in answer to a question which he has seen. This Government, through the taxpayer, is giving housing benefit to one in three households. It is not government money; it comes from those who are already providing for their own housing costs and are often having to provide a housing benefit for others.

Mr Nigel Spearing (Newham South, Lab): Whatever happens in Calcutta, the responsibility for the sick, disabled and handicapped in Newham is for the Newham health authority. The Government is cutting funds available to that authority by nearly £500,000 next year. How does she reconcile that action with her well-advertised view to be like Mother Theresa?

Mrs Thatcher: He does not accurately respect the quotation, but I do not expect him to do so. The last Labour Government actually reduced provision for the NHS in real terms in two of the five years they were in office. We are not going to accept lectures from them. (Conservative cheers)

Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP, (Plymouth Devonport): Fifteen million people in this country – on official figures – will be living at or below the poverty line this Christmas. Will she, if the economy improves next year, make a new year resolution that she will tax cut by increasing child benefit?

If she were to concentrate a 1p reduction in the standard rate on child benefit, that would increase the half average family earnings by £3.90. If she concentrated on tax allowances it would only increase by 92p, and if she did it through the standard rate it would increase by only a miserable 35p.

Mrs Thatcher: There are some seven million who are living in families who are supported by supplementary benefit. There are many other different definitions of poverty. Many of the low paid get supplementary benefit and have incomes of about 40 per cent above that.

They are wholly artificial definitions. Those who are living in need are fully and properly provided for. From his question I am not sure whether he is asking me to put up taxation or put it down.

Nice gesture if CND had cancelled

It would have been a nice gesture if CND had cancelled a demonstration held shortly after the Harrods bombing, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during questions when she expressed sympathy for the bereaved.

Mr Timothy Eggar (Enfield North, C) said: The public has been immensly reassured by the increased number of police on the streets in central London over the last few days. On Tuesday, CND deliberately decided to stage a public demonstration, taking a number of police officers away from street patrol.

Should not the country and this House have expected at this time slightly more responsible action to be taken by CND?

Mrs Thatcher: We would all like, especially at Christmas time, to place on record our thanks for the bravery and courage of the police, and particularly to remember those families who will not have a loved one with them this Christmas because of the bombings

I agree with him, I think it would have been a nice gesture if those hwo had planned demonstrations and cancelled them in favour of fighting terrorism.

£ note may be retained

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during questions that the pound coin was not popular and she had reason to believe the pound note would be retained.

She agreed with Mr Marcus Fox (Shipley, C) who asked: sould she take time during the recess to consider my adjournment debate this week regarding keeping the British pound note? Only as a last resort should the pound coin be universally introduced.

Subsidy of £13,000 for each man

SHIPBUILDING

Workers at British Shipbuilders' Scott Lithgow yard on the Lower Clyde were subsidized by the British taxpayer at the rate of £13,000 per year per employee, compared with an average for subsidy in merchant shipping per employee per year of £6,000 Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said in the Commons.

She told Mr Thomas Clarke (Monklands West, Lab), who had urged her to save the taxpayers the cost of paying for workers on the dole: There will be no Government intervention. It will be a tragedy if people go on strike, thereby doing themselves out of jobs, because shipbuilding orders are very difficult to get. There is a great deal of competition for them in the world.

It is a tragedy if people strike themselves out of jobs at a difficult time. This Government has already shown how much it is prepared to do for shipbuilding. Since 1979, British Shipbuilders have received some £850m of taxpayers' money, and merchant shipbuilding has been subsidized by £6,000 per job per year.

● Mr Norman Godman (Greenock and Port Glasgow, Lab), a former shipyard worker, who later raised the matter on an adjournment debate, said the Prime Minister had agreed to see him on this vital matter early in the New Year. His community depended more heavily on shipbuilding and marine engineering than any other in mainland Britain.

In both human and financial costs it would be better for Scott Lithgow to complete the Britoil's order for the semi-submersible drilling rig which Britoil had cancelled. Cancellation spelled economic and social disaster for Inverclyde, and prospects for further orders would be bleak. The company's customer image in the tough marketplace, would be very low. How could it survive the humiliation of losing this contract? Closure of the yard would be inevitable, despite the false optimism shown by Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Trade and Industry in the House on Tuesday.

Undeniably, Scott Lithgow had suffered from managerial problems. There had been woeful inadequacies in project management. But he readily acknowledged failures in industrial relations on both sides. But workers had made significant improvements recently in productivity and quality.

It would appear (he said) that the Government is quite willing, indeed eager, to ignore these improvements and to disregard the positive response of the shop stewards committee to come together with the management to hammer out an agreement on job flexibility and interchangeability.

He found the indifference and even hostility of some Government

Godman: Closure of yard is inevitable

ministers to management and workforce deeply disturbing. If the Secretary of State for Scotland could not persuade his ministerial colleagues to intervene, he should resign.

The total cost of cancellation and closure, including redundancy payments, social security benefits, repayments to Britoil, would be about £96m. Cancellation penalties and costs vis-a-vis suppliers and sub contractors would take the figure to over £100m.

The Government's indifference was creating in Scotland a Scottish underclass of ex-miners and their children, ex-textile workers and their children and ex-smelter workers and their children.

Mr John Butcher, Under Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, agreed this was a dreadful crisis, distressing and depressing. Conservatives were not indifferent to the huge social implications of it, but there had been bad working practices.

Legal proceedings instituted between British Shipbuilders and Britoil's agents meant that he could not discuss in detail the merits and demerits of what was a contractural dispute. The issue between the two parties was sub judice.

Since nationalization, the Government had subsidized each job at Scott Lithgow up to £25,000 per job. That was not indifference. Now (he said) we find our justification becoming thinner and thinner by the day.

Talking about closure would be premature. Two other vessels were being built in the yard. But cancellation would bring large scale job losses.

It was ironic that the workforce had shown no signs of resisting the call for national industrial action made by the shipbuilding union leadership.

Fortress policy not folly

FALKLANDS

There must be a change of policy over the Falkland Islands because Britain could not go on allowing its resources to be drained away, Mr William Hamilton (Fife, Central, Lab) said during a Commons debate on the Fortress Falklands policy.

He said the cost of the policy involved mind numbing figures over £15m every week up to 1985-86 to defend the rights of 1800 folk about whom successive governments had expressed no great interest. It worked out at about £1.5m per head.

Even the Chancellor of the Exchequer was worried about the enormous bills being presented to pay for the Falklands folly. The Government should swallow its pride and begin to talk with the new Argentine Government.

Mr Raymond Whitney, Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said it was not the Government's choice to develop a Falklands fortress policy. Adequate defence was forced on them by the action of the Argentine military junta in April 1982.

I do not think (he said) we can be feckless and profligate in the defence of the important principles of freedom. It was not the Falklands folly. It was the Falklands rescue operation which was necessary.

US visit questioned

COMPUTERS

Following criticism by backbencher MPs, Mr John Biffen, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House, withdrew a motion which would have enabled members of the House of Commons Services Committee to visit legislative assemblies in Washington and Ottawa.

Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab) said that in local government this would have been called a junket, though he was sure it was not. There would be headlines in the local newspapers about the cost to ratepayers.

The motion, which would allow the committee to take evidence outside the United Kingdom for the remainder of the present session, was expected to have been approved automatically but Mr Enoch Powell (Down South, OUP) rose to seek reasons for what he said was a change of considerable importance in the standing orders.

There was precedents for the taking of evidence outside the realm by select committees, but for the most part these had been restricted to British installations or other interests outside the UK.

Mr Biffen said the computer subcommittee of the House of Commons Services Committee wanted the opportunity of examining the use made by computers in the legislative assemblies of other countries.

Foreign buyers put expensive houses back in fashion

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Britain is seen as a prospective "bolt hole" by rich foreigners, according to Knight, Frank and Rutley, the international property consultants and estate agents.

Partly because of that interest, 1983 has seen larger houses come back into fashion, Mr Bill Yates, a partner, says. Well located expensive houses, many of them on the market for up to two years, have sold, and during the year the firm has sold a number of well-known houses for more than £1m, two for more than £2m.

"Such houses are mainly, but not exclusively, sold to foreigners. At these levels, overseas buyers outbid the British", he states. The reason for such foreign interest, he believes, is that Britain is perceived as a country with good prospects for political and economic stability.

"Rich people throughout the world like to hedge their bets. A personal investment in Britain is a reasonable bet. To some it is a prospective 'bolt hole', no doubt backed by a substantial Swiss bank account. To those who can afford to buy, maintain and use a substantial house, which is also a work of art, this country is well stocked", Mr Yates says.

A few years ago, such buyers were always Arabs, and although they continue to be important, they have been joined by Chinese, Japanese, people from some South American and African countries, and some North Americans.

Mr Yates, writing in the firm's annual review, points out that there is also evidence that more British citizens are prepared to buy larger houses and take on commitments to extensive gardens.

Overseas buyers have been active, too, in buying expensive London houses. Mr Peter Kearon, a partner in Knight, Frank and Rutley, estimates that there has been a 20 per cent increase in prices for this sector.

Languages plea by teachers

By Lucy Hodges
Education Correspondent

Secondary school headteachers have criticized. Like many other educational bodies, they say that the document is seriously flawed.

One of the main criticisms of the Secondary Heads Association, which represents 3,200 of the 5,000 heads in England and Wales, is that *Foreign Languages in the School Curriculum* does not mention the curriculum as a whole.

"A government that expects the curriculum to consist wholly of courses examined to present standards at 16-plus, and to include three separate sciences, cannot be surprised if the second foreign language disappears," the association says in its response to the Department of Education and Science.

It proposes that the dominance of French be countered by the introduction of foundatiom courses in two languages. That would also expose the inappropriateness for most pupils of the present O level and CSE system.

"We believe that one of two foreign languages should be taught to all pupils, to an appropriate and recognized foundation standard, as part of their secondary education.

"The alternative, of limiting such teaching to pupil of a certain ability range, is likely to be counterproductive in terms of the perceived 'difficulty' of the subject concerned and is known to be divisive in terms of the remainder of the curriculum."

The headteachers say that the consultative paper gives scant emphasis to the effect of the examination system on pupil motivation and that the improvements urged (in the increased use of foreign language assistants, for example) are becoming less possible because of spending cuts.

Rival air route may close Prestwick

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

Scotland's international airport at Prestwick may face closure because of official approval for direct services between Glasgow and New York.

The Civil Aviation Authority decision yesterday to approve a British Midland service out of Glasgow marks a an important change in Scottish aviation policy and was described by Mr Norman Payne, the British Airports Authority chairman, as "flying in the face of commonsense".

His organization, which runs both airports and opposed the British Midland application at a public hearing in November, is to appeal against the decision, which could well mean an extra £10m investment at Glasgow, and the waste of £25m spent at Prestwick, Mr Payne said.

British Midland which argued that Prestwick on the Ayrshire coast a too far away to serve Glasgow effectively and that the distance was diverting flights from Scotland, proposes to operate a 350-seat DC10 between Manchester and New York with calls at Glasgow. The flights will run five times a week in summer and four in winter at fares roughly comparable to existing Atlantic fares.

Mr Michael Bishop, British Midland chairman, said he was "especially pleased" at the Glasgow designation, and added that the airline would seek direct flights from Manchester to New York along with revocation of British Airways' licence for the route, unused for three years. British Airways says it will consider restarting in 1985.

GLC to support minority arts at Roundhouse

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

London's Roundhouse theatre is to become Britain's first black community arts centre with the aid of a £330,000 grant from the Greater London Council.

The GLC and Camden council are expected to agree early next year on the revenue needed to run the centre. A GLC spokesman was unable to predict yesterday how much money it would require, but said that an approach to the Arts Council for support was expected.

The Roundhouse closed earlier this year because of a cash shortage. The former railway turntable shed in Camden had established itself as one of London's leading fringe venues.

The GLC's arts and recreation committee has put aside £330,000 for vital repairs and conversion work. An independent trust, on which GLC and Camden councillors will sit, is to be established to run the venture.

Mr Peter Pitt, chairman of the GLC ethnic arts subcommittee, said yesterday: "It is heartening to see the plans for a black arts centre coming nearer to fruition. I hope we shall not have to wait long to see a permanent venue for the rich and varied cultural traditions of the black community".

No opening date has been suggested, but it could find itself confronted with a financial crisis almost immediately if the GLC is abolished as the Government itself.

The Roundhouse was built by Robert Stephenson in 1847 as a railway shed, and later served as a wine store and factory. It became a theatre in the 1960s.

The building has been the venue for several artistic exercises. In 1971, a performance of *Rabelais* was stopped by two naked men who descibed its directors as bourgeois thieves.

Policeman jailed over £1,000 bribe

James Thomas, aged 51, a police inspector was jailed yesterday for obtaining a £1,000 bribe from a restraunt owner who needed help with a drinks licence case.

Bristol Crown Court was told that apart from losing his freedom, Thomas, who had 27 years' service in the city force, would lose his police house, a £24,000 pay-out on retirement and a £100 a week pension.

Thomas was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment, half of it suspended, after being found guilty of two corruption charges and one of incitement to attempt to pervert the course of justice. He had denied the allegations.

His daughter, Mrs Jill Williams, said after the verdict that since her father's arrest, her mother and sister had attempted suicide.

Dr Brian Richards arriving at Heathrow airport yesterday.

Accused doctor returns

Dr Brian (Dick) Richards, the sex therapy specialist, who is accused of plotting to murder his Harley Street partner, Dr Peter Stephan, flew into Heathrow airport yesterday from Los Angeles.

Earlier, he had attended a five-minute court hearing when his bail was reduced from $525,000 (£367,000) to $200,000.

Dr Richards, who has returned to spend Christmas with his family, said: "I think it is becoming obvious that someone has made a nasty mistake."

"The judge has substantially reduced my bail and I think this is indicative of the way the whole thing is going. It is becoming obvious that they are trying to make a mountain out of a molehill.

"I am due in court again on February 13 and while it is not likely that there will be a sudden development which will mean I won't have to go, I wouldn't be surprised if something like that evetually happens.

I am sure the authorities realize that in keeping me locked up for 23 out 24 hours, with no watch, no exercise period and no chance to see he sunlight was perhaps a little over zealous."

Dr Richards said that he was writing a book about the affair, to be called "The Murder That Never Was".

Youth accused of making bomb hoax call

A car wash attendant from west London accused of making a hoax telephone call about a bomb in Selfridges store, Oxford Street, was made the subject of an "unruly order" by Hammersmith Juvenile Court yesterday. That means he can be detained for up to eight days.

The youth, aged 16, had denied the accusation. Mrs Noelle Mendelssohn, chairman of the bench told the youth he would go to a remand centre for one week, pending reports.

Candlestick find

A pair of silver candlesticks, valued at £2,000, stolen from Cirencester parish church, in Gloucestershire, four months ago, have been found in a copse a few miles away.

Village votes for death pill in nuclear war

By a Staff Reporter

People of a West Country village have voted by nearly four to one in favour of a suggestion by their local doctor, that he should be able to hand out "suicide pills" in a nuclear war.

The villagers of Congresbury, near Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, decided by 62 votes to 16 at a public meeting in favour of Dr Richard Lawson, aged 37, giving out lethal doses of morphine before an imminent nuclear attack.

Dr Lawson, a member of the Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weaponry, said he had called the meeting because some of his patients would stab, shoot or strangle their children rather than allow them to suffer the effects of radiation after a nuclear conflict.

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Arafat-Mubarak talks raise hopes for revived US peace plan

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The internecine fighting within the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), culminating in this week's evacuation of Mr Yassir Arafat and 4,000 of his fighters from Lebanon, has raised hopes in Washington that President Reagan's Middle East peace initiative can be revived early in the new year.

US officials said they were extremely encouraged by yesterday's meeting between the PLO leader and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt. Relations between Mr Arafat and Egypt have been under severe strain since the 1979 Camp David accord.

US officials are hoping the PLO leader will hold talks soon with King Husain of of Jordan and give him the green light to enter negotiations with Egypt and Israel on Palestine autonomy.

The Americans regard an acceptance by King Husain to join the negotiations on behalf of Jordan and the Palestinians as an essential first step towards implementation of Mr Reagan's September 1982 peace initiative.

If Jordan agrees to participate *then, according to the offical* view in Washington, Israel will be forced to reconsider its rejection of the Reagan plan.

The President's peace plan calls for the establishment of a self-governing Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza "in association with Jordan."

Earlier this year King Husain held talks with Mr Arafat about the possibility of forming a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to negotiate the future of the occupied territories on the basis of the Reagan plan. However, Mr Arafat refused to give King Husain the necessary go-ahead and, as a result, the US initiative has been on ice for the past eight months.

King Husain has made it clear all along he would agree to participate in the negotiations only if he had the backing of the Palestinians and "moderate" Arab states.

Mr Arafat's refusal to support him last April was largely due to the influence of Syria, which is strongly opposed to the Reagan plan. However, Syria has now lost that influence over Mr Arafat because of its support for PLO rebels during the recent fighting in Tripoli.

American officials concede they are uncertain how much influence Mr Arafat retains over the now deeply divided PLO. However, they believe he still enjoys the support of a majority of Palestinians living in the occupied territories and that he will continue to be recognized formally as the PLO leader by most Arab countries.

Mr Kamal Hassan Ali, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, who held talks with President Reagan on Wednesday, said Egypt still considered Mr Arafat the most popular Palestinian leader. We also agreed with the American assessment that his evacuation from Lebanon had opened the way for a new "political approach" to the Middle East problem.

If Mr Arafat were now to give King Husain the go-ahead to join negotiations with Egypt and Israel then, it is hoped in Washington, the Jordanian ruler could obtain the necessary Arab backing at a planned summit meeting of the Arab League in Saudi Arabia on March 31.

However, US officials say it is still far too early to predict with any confidence what will happen in the weeks ahead. But they feel that the latest events in Tripoli have presented the United States with a new opportunity which they intend to exploit diplomatically.

30,000 greetings

Washington (AFP) – More than 30,000 letters and Christmas cards to Lieutenant Robert Goodman, a US Navy pilot, held prisoner by Syria since his plane was shot down on December 4, have been delivered to the congressional building here.

The 'sniffer planes' scandal

Giscard defends failed oil venture

From Roger Beardwood, Paris

Former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing said last night that he was "scandalized" by what he saw as political exploitation of allegations that a state-owned oil company lost up to 500m francs (£41m) in a venture he sanctioned while in office to discover oil reserves with airborne electronic equipment.

The former President was due to appear on television to answer journalists' questions on this issue.

At the heart of the drama – which has its comical aspects – is the Giscard Government's agreement to transfer to Switzerland in the 1970s 1bn francs (£83m) to finance the new technology.

When the so-called "sniffer planes" failed to discover a single barrel of oil, their promoters returned about half the money. The rest is still missing. What M Giscard d'Estaing has to explain is not only why he and his Prime Minister, M Raymond Barre, backed such an expensive and apparently far-fetched project, but also why a report by the State Audit Court was destroyed.

M Valéry d'Estaing: An experiment "in the national interest"

M Bernard Beck, aged 70, president of the court at the time but now in retirement, appears to be taking a route familiar to many politicians and senior civil servants by entering a plea of "national security".

Le Matin, the Paris daily, quoted him yesterday as saying he had "lacerated" the report, "even though the court is not the Ministry of Defence". This statement lends strength to reports that the promoters of the electronic system had claimed it would detect nuclear submarines and uranium, as well as oil.

Among the promoters are a Belgian named as Baron Alain de Villegas de Saint-Pierre, an Italian technician, named as Signor Aldo Bonassoli, and a lawyer, M Jean Violet. They and their associates appear to have persuaded both the Swiss Bank and the French oil company Elf Erap of the invention's many merits.

In May, 1976, Elf Erap signed a contract with the Panamanian company Fisalma for further development of the system. The following year, Elf Erap got a new chief executive, M Albin Chalandon. When told in secret of the airborne detecting system M Chalandon was sceptical. In 1980, the company cancelled the contract.

Kidnapped Soviet geologist freed

Maputo (AFP) – Eight Soviet geologists kidnapped in northern Mozambique last August have been freed, two have died in captivity and 14 are still being held by rebels of the South African-backed Mozambique National Resistance according to a Soviet Embassy official here.

The official said that the eight had been freed in various operations over the past few months, and had all returned to the Soviet Union.

Two geologists were killed and total of 24 kidnapped when guerrillas attacked a mine in the province of Zambezia. Two Mozambicans were also killed in the attack, and four other were kidnapped.

Union in 'Times' dispute loses

Bonn – A labour court in Frankfurt ruled that the German print union which disrupted publication of an international edition of *The Times* during the 1979 dispute had acted illegally.

The printing company was therefore entitled to damages, it said, and a court-appointed assessor will decide the amount.

Grenada aid

Mr Giles Bullard, the British High Commissioner for Grenada, was due to sign a £750,000 British aid agreement with representatives of the island's advisory council yesterday. It includes £650,000 for power and water equipment and £100,000 for technical help, including police advice and training.

Dancer's escape

Beverly Hills, California (AP) - Gene Kelly, aged 71, the actor and dancer, and his family escaped injury when their two-storey Rodeo Drive house was destroyed by fire. The house was a "total loss," a police spokesman said.

New spy chief

Canberra (AFP) – The Australian Secret Intelligence Service has named its deputy chief, Mr Stuart Fry, aged 53, to succeed Mr John Ryan as head after a bungled training exercise at a Melbourne hotel led to Mr Ryan's resignation.

Invincible 'no'

Sydney (AP) – Women anti-nuclear protesters in boats managed to paint the word "No" on the British aircraft carrier Invincible before police drove them off.

Sweeping panda

Peking (Reuter) – Qingqing, the giant panda who sweeps her own cage clean, is to become the star of a new television series in China. She will be seen juggling, cycling and carrying pails of water.

Inquiry into safety at Madrid airport

From Richard Wigg Madrid

The Spanish Parliament voted on Wednesday night to set up an all-party investigation committed to try to find the causes of the two recent air disasters affecting Madrid airport.

As unease about safety at the airport grew, it emerged yesterday that the pilot on an Iberia DC9 on a domestic flight from Valencia had to regain height as he was preparing to land because a Trans World Airlines Boeing 747 was still on the runway.

The incident occurred only nine days after the head-on collision in fog at the airport between an Iberia Boeing 727 and a DC9 on a domestic flight, which had apparently mistaken the runway. Ninety-two people were killed.

The latest incident was revealed by Señor Joan Lerma, Chief Minister of the Valencia Regional Government, who travelled on the DC9 on one of his regular visits to the capital.

No complaints have been made to the Civil Aviation Authority by the DC9's crew, and it seems clear that the pilot had not been given permission to land by the control tower. He was told to regain altitude and circle round

Señor Enrique Barón, the Socialist Transport and Tourism Minister, speaking as Parliament unaminously approved an investigation, took the line that no administrative or political responsibility exists for the two Madrid crashes. Spain's airline pilots however, have severely criticized successive governements for alleged failure to install certain modern safety equipment at the Madrid airport.

Outlawed Turks bare teeth

From Rasit Gurdilek, Ankara

A concerted campaign to discredit Mr Turgut Ozal's monetarist, anti-inflationary programme has been launched by the burgeoning conservative and social democratic parties barred by the military from Turkey's new civilian Parliament.

In Parliament itself, the Opposition has indicated it will vote against the economic reforms but that is hardly a problem for Mr Ozal, the Prime Minister, whose Motherland Party commands 211 of the 400 seats.

Mr Ozal is pledged to: Prevent inflation rising above 10 per cent by the end of his term: end the lingering role of the state in economy; reduce unemployment; and restructure industy.

The Prime Minister, outlining his policies yesterday said that there was "No time to lose".

Indeed he lost no time in decreeing a radical increase in interest rates, to boost them above the current inflation rate of 40 per cent to encourage savings.

The move had an immediate effect and gold prices and the blackmarket value of foreign currencies took a dive Mr Ozal is also expected to lose little time in introducing tax reductions and price increases.

The Prime Minister needs to hasten not only to accomplish what he was promised to do within the next five years, but also just to survive his term. The extra-parliamentary opposition has been getting uncomfortably stronger and hostile since the military regime restored democracy after ruling the country for more than three years.

The conservative Right Way Party, claiming widespread support and enjoying the backing of Mr Süleyman Demirel, the former Prime Minister, who was banned from politics for 10 years, has been particularly active in showing its force.

Almost immediately after the nomination of Mr Ozal for the premiership – and hence the official termination of the military regime – the Right Way Party ceremoniously recruited to its ranks more than 100 former MPs of the defunct Justice Party of Mr Demirel.

It was followed by the transfer *en masse* of the whole leadership of the Grand Turkey Party, which was banned by the military for smacking too much of the outlawed Justice Party.

This flexing of muscles has also attracted appreciative glances from the domain of the officially approved centre-right Nationalist Democracy Party.

The Social Democracy Party, another eminent force disqualified from the election and claiming the support of the voters of the banned Republican People's Party, has also lost no time in manifesting its defiance by reelecting Mr Erdal Inonu, the son of Ismet Pasha, the revered late soldier-statesmen, as its chairman last weekend. Mr Inonu had been vetoed earlier by the military from heading the party.

Storm breaks in Canada over Eagleburger jibe

From John Best, Ottawa

A tempest has broken over some unkind remarks about the Canadian Prime Minister, Mr Pierre Trudeau, attributed to the American Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Mr Lawrence Eagleburger.

Mr Eagleburger, known for his plain talk and colourful turns of phrase, was quoted in yesterday's Canadian newspapers as saying that Mr Trudeau's so-called peace initiative "something akin to pot-induced behaviour by an erratic leftist".

The comment was carried by the Canadian Press news agency. It was said to have been made by Mr Eagleburger at a private meeting about three weeks ago.

Within hours of the report *appearing in print yesterday*, the United States Embassy here put out a statement almost – but not quite – denying its authenticity.

The statement said that Mr Eagleburger had asked the embassy to say that the reports of his comments were "grossly distorted".

Russians reject Ottawa's claim over Korean jet

From Our Correspondent Ottawa

The Soviet Union has refused to accept Canada's $Can2.1m (£1.2m) claim for compensation for the families of eight Canadians killed when a Soviet fighter shot down the South Korean airliner over Sakhalin island on September 1.

Mr Alexey Rodionov, the Soviet Ambassador, was called to the External Affairs Department to be informed of the claim. He refused to accept delivery of a formal diplomatic Note.

France and US given deadline in Beirut

Beirut (Reuter) – The Islamic Jihad organization yesterday claimed responsibility for Wednesday's lorry bomb attack here and warned French troops and US marines to withdraw within 10 days.

The organization made the claim and issued the warning in an anonymous call to a foreign news agency. A French soldier and at least 10 Lebanese civilians died from the blast.

The male caller told the agency that his group would "cause a real earthquake" under the feet of French and US troops of the multinational peacekeeping force in Beirut unless they pulled out within the specified period.

The Islamic Jihad is believed to be a fundamentalist group withi ties in Iran.

The force of the blast, estimated to have been caused by a ton of explosives packed into the lorry shook Beirut and many thought the capital had been hit by an earthquake. An apartment building collapsed from the explosion.

Islamic Jihad has claimed responsibility for most attacks on French and US troops since they arrived in September, 1982 including the two suicide bomb raids on October 23 which killed 241 American servicemen and 58 French troops.

On Wednesday a hitherto unknown group calling itself the Black Hand telephoned the Phalangist Voice of Lebanon radio station claiming responsibility for the latest attack.

It was revealed in Paris yesterday that France, whose forces in Lebanon were the main target on Wednesday night, is to begin delivery soon of a big arms shipment to the Lebanese Army, including 100 tanks and 10 combat and transport helicopters. This will dramatically increase the strength of the Lebanese Army, which is closely identified with Lebanon's ruling Christians, whom the bombers and their supporters hoep to destabilize.

The AMX 13 light tanks have 90 mm gunds, while Gazelle helicopters on order will be fitted with anti-tank missiles. The Puma troop-carrying helicopters could also carry cannon and machine guns.

● WASHINGTON: Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, said yesterday that the United Stated had tried in vain to get other countries to join the four-nationa multinational peacekeeping force. Since the force was formed last August, 18 countries had been asked to join and 15 had declined.

Mr Weinberger did not name the countries that had rejected the request. The United States has 1,800 Marines in the existing force, Italy 2,100 troops, France 2,000 and Britain 100.

Asked about Italy's decision to reduce its force by 1,000 men, Mr Weinberger said that this would only reduce its contribution to the original figure committed last year.



A fanatical 'family' to rival the Mafia

By A Special Correspondent

Whenever Mr Husain Mussawi – the man widely believed to have been behind the kamikaze attacks on American and French establishments in Lebanon and Kuwait – has sensitive information to communicate to his backers in Tehran, he finds it convenient to have his cousin and boyhood companion, Mr Mohsen Mussawi, occupying the post of First Secretary at the Iranian Embassy in Beirut.

The two men are equally Lebanese and Iranian as a result of their upbringing and family links in the two countries. They are part of an extensive family network of Shia clerics with branches all over the Middle East, as well as nowadays among immigrants and diplomats from North Korea to New York.

In Tehran, distant relatives but fellow-believers include Mir Hosein Mussawi, the Prime Minister, and even Ayatollah Khomeini himself, though the bulk of the two men's business is done with a second-rank cleric, Seyyed Mehdi Hashemi, in charge of the Foreign Ministry's Department for Liberation Movements – more informally referred to as the Department for the Export of the Revolution.

Mr Hashemi was wanted under the Shah's regime for the abduction and murder of a moderate mullah, Ayotollah Shams-Abadi, of Isfahan. Now he supervises the ideological and military training of foreign Muslim militants, or "Islamic students".

Defecting Iranian diplomats have told *The Times* that he has set up secret fundamentalist organizations in many countries, including the "Liberation Organization of Islamic Tunisia", and even the "Egyptian Unity and Holy Struggle Organization", whose members assassinated President Sadat.

He is said to be devoting most of his time to the Arab countries of the Gulf, such as Kuwait and Bahrain, whose governments support Iraq's war effort against Iran.

Each week dozens of boats cross the Gulf from Iran to these states under the cover of darkness, carrying smugglers, illegal immigrants, political refugees and some trained saboteurs.

Kuwait has about 25,000 legal Iranian residents and a further 55,000 illegal ones. There are also many influential Kuwaiti families of Iranian origin, many of whom identify with non-Arab Iran, whatever the colour of its Government.

Three months ago, one such Kuwaiti-Iranian, Mr Husain Makki, was arrested on suspicion of fomenting religious unrest. A prompt Iranian warning to the Government of Kuwait secured his release.

What is new in the extensive network of Shia clerical families outside Iran is the resort to suicidal terrorism reminiscent of their eleventh-century forebears, the Assassins. Another novelty is the increasing number of militants from the Sunni branch of Islam making political alliances with Ayatollah Khomeini's followers among the Shia.

In many a Western capital, including Washington and London, young Palestinians, Syrians and North Africans, carefully cultivating a scruffy "Islamic" appearance, gather nightly in houses run with Iranian Government money, repetitively chanting slogans in adulation of "the Imam" for many hours at a time. No TV sets or Western newspapers are allowed.

Concern at trial delays in Italy

From John Earle Rome

One of Italy's best known television personalities, Signor Enzo Tortora, has been in prison for six months as a result of a police swoop on 900 alleged members of the Camorra, the Naples version of the Mafia.

The accusations against him are based on statements by *camorristi* already in jail. Signor Tortora has repeatedly declared his innocence. After the police blitz, it was found that about 100 of those arrested were cases of misnomers or mistaken identity.

Perhaps the most prominent case of preventative detention is that of the 7 April group of leftwing extremists around Signor Toni Negri, a Radical deputy who recently fled abroad. Arrested in April 1979, they were brought to trial in March 1983.

An Amnesty International report said it considered that the period for which they were held before the opening of the trial was excessive.

UN force 'Lebanon's best alternative'

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

Amid reports that the idea of replacing the multimational forces in Beirut with United Nations troops is being mooted in Washington, Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the Secretary-General, again stated that the UN offered the best alternative for peacekeeping in Lebanon.

In a UN press conference, he said that some of the difficulties encountered by the multinational force troops would escape the UN forces since their presence around Beirut would require a broad base of support, including approval from all the parties in the conflict. Their international stamp would make them less likely to be identified with one side in the dispute.

The *UN* peacekeepers would also serve under a unified command. Their mandate to carry only light defensive arms would reduce their risk of attack, since the sanctity of their mission would be undisputable.

The Secretary-General also delivered one of his sternest lectures to the United States and the Soviet Union for their confrontational nuclear stand.



Instant wealth: Four nurses in Bilbao celebrate after learning that their ticket has won a prize in the lottery.

'The Fat One' works its annual miracle

From Harry Debelius Madrid

"The Fat One" worked his annual miracle in Spain Yesterday, turning paupers into rich men and fulfilling the Christmas dreams of Spaniards all over the country.

"The Fat One," as the Spaniards affectionately dub their huge annual Christmas lottery, filled the pockets of thousands of Barcelona's poorer people, bestowed undreamed wealth on customers of a lottery shop in Bilbao, wrecked in this year's floods and later reopened, and gave the country's legislators an unexpected payoff.

More than one-third of the £239m in prizes went to Barcelona and surrounding areas. The first prize and four other big prizes went there.

Inhabitants of the poor neighbourhood near the Felipe II market in Barcelona got a bonanza. Merchants had distributed tiny shares of ticket number 53,288 as a Christmas gift among their customers. The number came up and a share of only 11p on that number became worth £1,000.

In the old quarter of Bilbao, families affected by floods had the consolation of £25m.

Employees of the Spanish Parliament, as well as some MPs, held lucky numbers.

Kremlin cracks down on corruption

Moscow (Reuter) – The Kremlin, less than a week before a key meeting of its Central Committee, yesterday gave warning that party members were expected to produce results if they hoped to remain in positions of power.

In the second attack in a week on the leadership on the republic of Moldavia, *Pravda* published a front-page leading article, saying that a decisive about-turn was needed.

Although the Moldavian party was criticized for inefficiency in a government decree only seven days ago, *Pravda* made it clear that the Kremlin had expected, and not seen an immediate response. "An essential improvement in the style of working has not occurred", it said.

Another report gave warning that sinecures were a thing of the past, restating the tough disciplinarian line of President Andropov and appearing to indicate that he was still firmly in control.

He is expected to make his first public appearance in four months at next week's meeting of the Communist Party's Central Committee or Supreme Soviet, the country's parliament.

The attack on Moldavia, which lies between the Ukraine and Romania, have been interpreted by some diplomats as attempts by Andopov supporters to discredit allies of former President Brezhnev.

One of those, Mr Konstantin Chernenko, thought to have been Mr Andropov's rival for the party leadership, occupied senior posts in Moldavia in the 1950s and maintained close links with the area.

Other diplomats, however, said they thought the attacks were intended more as a warning against sloppy administration, bureaucracy and smugness.

"The most important thing is not the holding of meetings and the adaption of numerous resolutions, but the knowledge of how to organize things practically," the *Pravda* article said.

A report from Novosibirsk on regional party meetings, held in advance of elections to local administrative bodies, contained a clear criticism of complacency. "Platform speakers noted that a few comrades were obviously well-used to a soft job," it said.

The regional party elections, as always a one-candidate choice, could be an opportunity for Andropov supporters to take control at the grass-roots level.

One of the innovations of the Andropov era has been an end to the habit under Brezhnev of almost never seriously threatening the position of an official who had reached senior rank.

Mr Andropov's line has been to insist on "personal responsibility", a phrase repeated in yesterday's attack, with senior officials being criticized because of errors made at the lower levels of their departments.

Under Brezhnev, a more likely scenario was for a junior official to be made a scapegoat for a mistake higher up. An indication of how seriously the leadership regards the Moldavian party misdemeanors will come at the Central Committee meeting when the local party chief, Mr Semyon Grossu, will be called to account.

Moldavia is a small republic with a population of about four million, ethnically and culturally linked to neighbouring Romania, of which it was once a part.

Both *Pravda* articles emphasized the need to improve the *everyday living standards*

Earthquake kills 10

Dakar, Senegal (AP) – At least 10 people were killed and an unknown number of others injured yesterday by a powerful carhtquake in G uinea, West Africa, according to Guinea state radio.

The earthquake registered 6.3 on the Richter scale, according to US geological scientists in Golden, Colorado. They said the earthquake occurred at 4.11am and its epicentre was 100 miles north-west of Labe.

Senegal puts death toll in rioting at 24

From Susan Macdonald, Dakar, Senegal

The official death toll during last Sunday's riots in the southern Casamance area of Senegal has risen to 24, although eye-witnesses speak of the number of dead being perhaps four times that figure.

The bloodshed was the result of a march on the provincial capital, Zinguinchor, by the Casamance separatist movement, which is agitating for independence from the rest of Senegal.

The police had previous information on the planned march and are reported to have had orders to deal with it firmly. They had taken up positions in the city in the early hours of Sunday morning, and there are reports that they opened fire on the approaching demonstrators, said officially to number about 500. The demonstrators were armed with knives, bows and arrows, and firearms.

Five policemen died as a result of the street fihting and officially 120 people were injured.

Poresident Abdou Diouf has reaffirmed his intention of sagfeguarding national interests and respect for the law. About 120 people were arrested and have been moved to Dakar.

The authorities severe reaction to the activities of the small separatist movement threatens to create a long-term dangerous situation. The important tourist industry in that area could also be affected by the disturbances, just at the start of its busy winter season, by last-minute cancellations.

Swiss jail spy linked to S Africa case

From Alan McGregor Geneva

Caught red-handed in an espionage contact assignment, Mikhail Vasilievich Nicolaiev, aged 49, believed to be a Soviet military intelligence officer, was sentenced to three years' imprisonment in Zurich yesterday after a trial in camera.

He was charged with espionage to the prejudice of another country – South Africa – and with carrying two American passports giving him different identities as Ronald Vincent Miskell, alias Dale Paul Nelson. The court said that his identity had not been established.

The sentence was the maximum in Swiss law for this form of espionage. His lawyer said an appeal would be lodged.

EEC plays a waiting game to trim its farm budget by £100m

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Measures to cut the cost of the common agricultural policy were announced yesterday by the European Commission. They are meant to save about £100m from next year's £1,000m agricultural budget.

The Commission is using its management powers to delay payment for produce which it buys at the EEC's fixed intervention prices. In the case of milk, for instance, dairies will be paid a minimum of four months after delivery, rather than the present two-month gap.

This delay, it is hoped, will force the dairies to try to unload their milk to buyers prepared to pay quickly. In turn, this will put more milk on the markey and force down the price, making it less profitable for farmers to produce.

Delaying tactics are also being used on other products, notably cereals, where payments will take three months instead of two. The Commission expects similar results, though they are difficult to quantify at this stage.

Part of the savings from the 1984 budget will be nominal because money will have to be paid eventually from the 1985 budget. In the same way, about £210m, frozen in payments from this year's budget, will have to be paid next year.

British farmers will emerge comparatively unscathed by the present package. A freeze on beef livestock premiums will not apply because Britain is the only country where beef producers receive their cash on the carcase, rather than on the number of head.

Sheep farmers will receive the ewe premium which will be paid next year for the last time. The Milk Marketing Board is so big that it will be able to cushion the effects of the delayed payments on dairy farmers.

The commission intends to produce another package early in the new year, which is expected to pare a further £100m from the budget. This will be done by imposing more rigorous quality standards on goods sold into intervention.

Meanwhile, the Council of Ministers is being asked to return to the agricultural reform package rejected at the Athens summit when it next meets on January 9. The Commission says agreement is the minimum required to provide essential savings.

● Ban lifted: The EEC has decided to drop economic sanctions imposed on the Soviet Union over martial law in Poland (AP reports).

"None of the member countries wanted to renew the sanctions in 1984, so they will lapse on New Year's Day," a spokesman said, on the understanding he would not be indentified. "There will be no formal announcement. The measures will just die quietly," he said.

The last meeting of the commission which could have proposed a renewal of the sanctions – a ban on certain Soviet imports – ended on Wednesday night without action.

The official said the 10 member countries decided the restrictions had served their purpose. EEC officials initially proposed a ban on Russian imports worth about £270m a year, but the list was watered down by member states to 60 products, representing about £94m a year.

India says 'give us back our Koh-i-Noor'

From Michael Hamlyn Delhi

A shopping list of Indian antiques and works of art in Britain is to be drawn up by the Indian High Commission in the Aldwych in London, including the Koh-i-Noor diamond, the brightest jewel in the Queen Mother's crown.

The list will be used to bring pressure on Britain to return them to India.

The disclosure that the High Commission had been asked to draw up such an inventory – and certain guidelines had been given to them for the purpose – came during a discussion in the Indian Parliament over the return of the Koh-i-Noor diamond, now resting in the Tower of London.

Mr P. K. Thungon, the deputy minister of education, told members of the Lok Sabha there was no inventory of Indian antiques in Britain, and furthermore Britain did not accept the principle that cultural property which had been acquired freely and legitimately over the years should be returned to other countries. But he added that India would continue to pursue the matter through international forums.

The minister cae under extremely strong pressure over the Koh-I-Noor, the 110-carat "Hill of Light", ceded to Queen Victoria in the treaty annexing the Punjab in 1849. Mr Subramaniam Swamy, a prominent member of the Janata Party, declared: It is the demand of the entire country that it should be returned to us." He was vociferously supported by other opposition

Mr Thungon had said somewhat naively that the question of a return did not arise as the Koh-I-Noor was given as a gift, by the Maharajah of Lahore, Duleep Singh. That caused a furious outburst, as well it might, since the poor old Maharajah had been obliged to make a free gift not only of the diamond but of his entire domain by British force of arms in one of the most cynical actions of the colonization of the sub-continent.

To calm the row, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Mr Balram Jakhar suggested to the minister that the question to be answered was whether the Maharajah was the proper authority to make such a gift. "Was he independent to do so?" he inquired.

Britons plead for lives of Chirwas

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Mrs Shirley Williams, the president of the SDP, and Lord Elwyn-Jones, a former Lord Chancellor made personal appeals yesterday for the life of Mr Orton Chirwa, the Opposition leader in Malawi, and his wife, Vera, who are facing the death sentence for treason.

Together with Miss Janet Johnson, the London director of Amnesty International, they called on the Malawi High Commission to deliver personal messages to President Hastings Banda, who will have the last word over the Chirwas' fate.

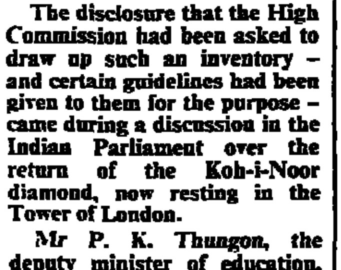
Mr Chirwa, a veteran Malawi politician and former Minister of Justice, was convicted and sentenced to death, along with his former lawyer wife last May. But they were given leave to appeal, and this appeal hearing ended last month.

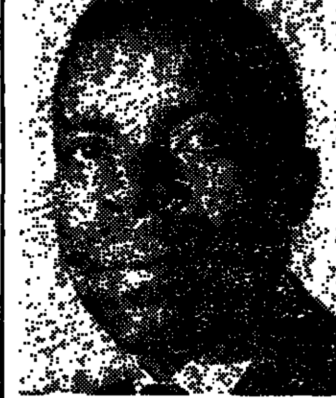
Amnesty and their other friends and supporters in London fear that, although no verdict has yet been declared, it could be announced over the Christmas holiday, making it difficult to launch any appeals if the decision goes against the Chirwas. Only President Banda would then be able to grant a reprieve.

Leaders of the Church of Scotland are also preparing to intercede with Dr Banda, himself an elder of the church. Dr Andrew Doig, a former Moderator, flew to Malawi to appeal on behalf of the Chirwas earlier this year.

Mrs Williams is a long-standing friend of Mrs Chirwa, while Mr Chirwa himself was once a junior counsel with Lord Elwyn-Jones. Both were said to feel very strongly on the matter, according to Amnesty sources.

A Foreign Office spokesman said they were keeping in close touch with the situation







Mr Chirwa: Faces the death sentence

Cruise ban refused in Germany

Karlsruhe (Reuter) – West Germany's Federal Constitutional Court yesterday rejected petitions seeking a legal ban on the deployment of Pershing 2 and cruise missiles.

The court ruled that deployment did not violate the country's constitution and it was not the court's task to judge political decisions. Germany is bound by a treaty not to manufacture or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons.

The first of 108 Pershings began arriving a month ago, and a Defence Ministry spokesman said they will be operational by the end of the year.

West Germany is also due to receive 96 of the 464 cruise missiles to be deployed in five West European countries, after the Soviet Union's fefusal to dismantle its SS20 rockets.

A wave of petitions from various factions in the country's big anti-nuclear movement, had been filed with the court.

Uganda lets Rwandans go home

From Charles Harrison Nairobi

The Ugandan Government has ordered local officials in Rakai district, west of Lake Victoria, to allow several thousand ethnic Rwandans to return to their homes in the area. The Rwandans were driven out after clashes with tribes in the area earlier this month.

Ugandan officials say no orders were given for the Rwandans, many of whom have lived in Uganda for generations, to be uprooted – although nearly 100,000 other Rwandans who had been living in areas farther west were ordered into refuge camps more than a year ago.

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees asked the Ugandan Government for information on the situation in Rakai, and was told that it arose from local tribal conflicts. Efforts are now being made to return the estimated 6,000 Rwandans to their former home in Rakai district.

Reports from the area say members of other tribes who looted the Rwandans' homes and cattle herds are now abandoning their loot as police try to track them down.

South Korea will free 1,600 under amnesty

Seoul (Reuter) – South Korea yesterday announced an amnesty for more than 1,000 criminals and political dissidents, including nine serving life sentences, who will either be freed from jail or have their civil rights restored.

Under a presidential clemency order effective today, 1,623 prisoners, more than 1,400 of them common criminals, will be released, while another 142 people already freed from prison will have their civil and political rights restored.

Those benefiting from the amnesty include General Chung Seung Hwa, the former Army chief of staff and martial law commander, released in 1980

He was among several senior military officers arrested in 1979 by President Chun Doo Hwain, then an army major-general, soon after the assassination of President Park Chung Hee.

In an investigation headed by Major-General Chun, General Chung was convicted of involvement in President Park's assassination by his own security chief.

The amnesty also restores civil rights to a Catholic priest, Choi Ki Shik. He was freed earlier this year from a three-year jail sentence for sheltering fugitives involved in an arson attack on a US cultural centre in the southern port of Pusan.

Other beneficiaries of the amnesty include 131 students jailed for anti-government demonstrations, 13 people convicted of involvement in the 1980 armed civilian uprising in the south west city of Kwangju, and four convicted of sedition.

The main opposition Democratic Korea Party, which has demanded the lifting of all political restrictions in the country, called the amnesty "a most welcome move".

The amnesty follows a government decision, announced on Wednesday, to allow 1,363 students expelled for anti-government demonstrations to return to their universities. Earlier this month the government also said it would permit reinstatement from next year of 86 professors removed from their posts in 1980 for anti-government activities.

Season of ill will and ingenuity: From Warsaw to Wall Street

Not the Harrods store: Shoppers bargain hunting in Buenos Aires at Harrods, a shop unconnected with the London store of the same name.

Santa dead drunk in the snow

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Christmas in Poland, or at least its secular celebration, has traditionally fallen into two distinct phases. The first is a concentrated week of commercial ill-will during which sales staff scale new unimaginable heights of rudeness and shoppers try their best, if necessary by hiring babies or gangs of pensioners, to edge their way to the head of the queues.

The second phase is a period of abnormally high alcohol consumption. Drunken Father Christmases lurch through the streets, men lie motionless in the snow,and vodka flows like, well, vodka.

This year Christmas Phase Two will be different. In a protest against the Government, thousands of Poles are renouncing vodka in solemn oaths sworn in church. A number of Warsaw churches, Poles, mainly intellectals and students but also workers, have been gathering to heart sermons that mix an anti-alcoholic message, with strong national sentiments and more than a trace of sympathy for Solidarity; a clearly political cocktail.

After the sermon and prayers, a pledge is read out: "Taking God and society as my witness, in the service of the Fatherland, of man's dignity and liberation and committed to an end to repression and hatred, I solemnly sweat sobriety and renounce vodka during the period of the Jubilee Holy Year. So help me God."

That is the pledge encouraged by the Catholic church leadership. But many priests and a few lay Catholic activists have given the oath a sharper edge. The expanded oaths of abstinence explicitly link the commitment to abandon vodka with the commitment to campaign for the release of political prisoners

The logic of the campaign is that the Government is both trying to sap the national will and earn revenue out of human weakness. "Our fate, the fate of the nation, is being decided now. For the society to regain its rights, let us give up our weakness. Let us reject evil to gain strength." Thus goes one of the more political pledges.

Every day one in 10 Polish workers is estimated to be drunk on the job

"It is easier to control a drunken nation than a sober one, let's not make it any easier for them," says one Warsaw University lecturer who has signed the oath.

But the sacrifice is not as large as it at first seems. The oath runs only until the end of Holy Year, that is until Easter. Moreover, there is no question of total abstinence – only vodka, the political symbol, is involved.

On the Warsaw black market yesterday, vodka was still doing swift business.

Peru guerrillas break truce

By Colin Harding

The assassination in Lima of a police general appears to be a further escalation of the campaign of urban terrorism by the Peruvian guerrilla organization, Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path), which has produced dozens of attacks in the capital since mid-October. General Carlos Herrera, head of the plainclothes branch training school, is the most senior officer to be killed in Peru's three-and-a-half-year old guerilla war. His death must cast serious doubts on reports this week that Sendero Luminoso had declared a two-year truce in its heartland of Ayacucho, in the south-central Andes.

A few hours before the shooting of General Herrera, the Interior Minister, Señor Luis Pércovich, had announced the capture by the police of Antonio Diaz Martinez, one of Sendero's leading ideologists, and believed by the authorities to be one of the top five in the guerrillas' command structure. A former agronomy lecturer at San Cristobal de Huamanga university in Ayacucho, Señor Diaz Martinez spent two years in China before returning to Peru in 1977 and going underground. He was said to have been arrested in Huaraz, in the highlands of Ancash, several hundred miles north of Ayacucho.

If the identity of Señor Diaz Martinez is confirmed, his capture will be the security forces' biggest coup so far against the guerrillas. His wife, Catalina Adrianzén, also a leading *senderista*, was captured two years ago, and is reported to have suffered a complete mental collapse in prison.

The blacking out of Lima for the sixth time in 18 months earlier this week suggests that Sendero's operational capacity is unimpaired, despite official claims that the guerrillas are on the run. The security forces have badly needed some favourable publicity, since reports emerged in mid-November that 32 peasants, including several young children, had been killed by soldiers and counter-insurgency police units, in Soccos, Ayacucho.

After laying the blame for the slaughter on the guerrillas, the military commander in Ayacucho, General Clemente Noel, agreed to open an official inquiry into reports by survivors that his troops had been involved. This was the first official admission that the security forces might have been responsible for any of the hundreds of atrocities and "disappearances" in the Andean guerrilla zone.

Killings have continued unabated in the rural emergency zone, and last month two more provinces, Lucanas and Huancavelica, were put under General Noel's overall command, bringing the total to 11. The general claims that Sendero is being driven out towards the periphery of its heartland.

Christmas in America

Jingle bells and mounds of dollars

A man's fondness for litigation, I once read, may be taken as evidence that he is crackers. Welcome to America, where litigation, encouraged by a glut of lawyers, is a national pastime, and the courts echo to plaintiff cries and the slap of writs.

The season of goodwill brings its own crop of bitter legal battles. Consider, for example, the fierce argument rending the town of Pawtucket, which stands on the Seekonk river, in Rhode Island. The Supreme Court itself is sitting in judgment in this matter.

The trouble has been ignited by the local council's nativity tableau, which has figures of Joseph, Mary, the swaddled Christ, a dancing elephant in a short skirt, a chipmunk and Santa on a snowmobile. (It is, after all, an American nativity scene).

The American Civil Liberties Union pursed its lips at this and sought a court order preventing the council paying for the tableau with public money. It cites the constitutional insistence on separation of church and state and contends that the council's manger scene is an illegal endorsement of religion.

The God-fearing Reagan Administration has sided with the outraged council, but the National Council of Churches has not. Indeed, some clergymen have signed a statement saying you can have Santa on the rates, but not Jesus. A cleric who expressed this view on television was telephoned by a man who said "If you spoil my kid's Christmas I'll blow your head off."

Another Christmas lawsuit, in New Orleans, concerns Mr Al Copeland, owner of Popeye's, a fried chicken chain. The poignant part of the story is that he was once a poor boy who decided that when he grew up and became rich he would do as the local wealthy nan did and decorate his mansion lavishly at Christmas.

He prospered on fried chicken and today his mansion has 250,000 fairy lights, an 18ft snowman and piped carols. The neighbours, however, do not like the great crowds which flock to see this spectacle and are asking a court to order lights out. Mr Copeland says his neighbours are grinches, American for grouches.

Apart from suing each other, Americans are spending money like drunken sailors. It is evidently a record Christmas, and delirious shopkeepers are being dug out from mounds of dollars. This is commerce rampant, in the land of abundance.

Santas are standing outside the great stores ringing handbells, calling the faithful to spend. The mammonists of Wall Street are paying each other fat bonuses (top executives are getting up to 25 per cent of their annual salaries), and hurrying to Tiffany's, a surprisingly dull, brown store, where the most expensive stocking filler is a necklace costing £1.4m – though most people settle for the £12 key ring.

Almost next door, on New York's Fifth Avenue, stands the new Trump Tower, a pillar of preposterous decadence and opulence. The doormen are got up in the red tunics and bearskins, like moonlighting Coldstreamers, a grand piano tinkles in the lobby and a, choir of nubile girls carol against the backdrop of a vast rose marble wall which doubles as a Hollywoodian waterfall.

The shops here are the kind that do not have anything so vulgar as price tags. The female assistants are tall and imperious and their lips, coated in cruel lipstick, hover on the brink of a sneer.

You ask the price of a tee-shirt and they say $88 unblinking and without shame, as the colour drains from your face and credit card.

The present for the truly rich and corrupted is a silver dog bowl, engraved "Dog", which Aspreys sell for £1,400. Special Christmas bikkies for the spoilt brute which feeds from it sell for £7. The bikky makers, of course, are being sued in a lawsuit over the brand-name.

The Cabbage Patch doll craze, which swept the *Day After* craze from the television screens, has calmed a little and there are fewer reports of shopkeepers being threatened and savaged by crazed mothers. (American parents are intimidated by their children, most of whom grow up to be lawyers).

The inventor of the Cabbage Patch doll, it hardly needs to be said, is being sued for millions by someone who claims he pinched the idea.

In New York, the imperial city, the spending frenzy is especially acute, and Christmas shopping rages unabated all day and much of the evening seven days a week.

Charles Dickens, visiting the United States, said "I'm getting sick of the sound of sleigh bells. The extra noise created by crowds, traffic and bells in an already noisy city makes New Yorkers cover their ears like Quasimodos. Suddenly, earplugs are in big demand and earplug vendors are making money. Earplugs could be the next craze.

You can see Santas, carrying sandwiches in brown paper bags, pausing on their way to work to press their noses against store windows. There is much to astonish them. For the man who has everything there are £200 pillowslips for foot pillows, or, perhaps, a small piece of the spinnaker with which the Americans lost the America's lost the America's Cup.

It might be thought un-American to sell a souvenir associated with defeat, but the tradition of turning a quick buck prevails, and a spinnaker fragment can be had for £850.

In the land of the telephone hotline there is a champagne hotline you can call to get expert help if you have champagne worries. And when Christmas is over psychologists will no doubt be brought on to television to explain to people why they spent so much and how they can cope with their guilt.

Many Christmas gifts will not work properly, but there are plenty of lawyers on hand to help people sue the shopkeepers.

Trevor Fishlock

Tomorrow: Christmas in Russia

Court rules angels must have wings

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

A Christmas tree angel is only a genuine member of the *heavenly host if it has wings*, suitable white robes and is opening its month to sing Hallelujah, a Hamburg court has ruled.

***This celestial judgment* was handed down after an unseasonable dispute between the city's customs authorities and an importer of china figurines aspiring to the rank of angels.**

According to the Office of the City Treasurer, the importer maintained that his beatific wares, each shaped to hold a candle were Christmas tree decorations, and as such exempt from duty Hamburg's customs imspectors thought otherwise, however, finding the would-be angels peculiarly lacking *in ethereal attributes*, adn slapped on hefty tax.

The court agreed with the customs men, basing its judgment primarily on the fact that the angels offered for cosideration had no wings. Wings, it opined, "Are in Western culture the quintessential distinguishing characteristic of angels". To show that this important legal precedent be thoroughly grounded, it added: "Although angels were represented as wingless in pre-christian times, since the fourth century the concept of an angel has always been bound to the representation of wings."

Boom in Soviet car industry – and any car will do

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The seven millionth Zhiguli car rolled off the assembly line not long ago and the Soviet car industry is celebrating. Soviet officials say that the Zhiguli, modelled on the Italian Fiat, has the best qualities of a family car, namely "comfort, reliability and efficiency".

Most Russians would say that while that might have been true when Fiat first set up its gigantic new plant at Togliatti on the Volga in 1970, Zhiguli̇s have become increasingly uncomfortable, unreliable and inefficient since the Italians left for home and handed over to local management. Many are already queueing up to get on the waiting list for the new version of the rival Moskvich family saloon, soon to be produced in conjunction with the French firm Renault. The present Moskvich is nearly 20 years old and the new French-styled model is due to make its long awaited appearance on Moscow roads in 1986.

On the other hand, for many would-be car owners any car at all would do, since production cannot keep pace with demand. As Soviet consumer expectations continue to rise, owning a car no longer seems an unattainable dream. The result is not only a huge waiting list but also a thriving black market in second-hand cars.

A new Zhiguli costs about 10,000 roubles (£8,000), equivalent to four years wages for an everage worker. An astonishing number of Russians are able to provide the cash and willing to join the queue. But with new cars and spare parts in such short supply, private enterprise has moved in to fill the gaps in consumer demand, and the authorities are now trying, if not to stamp it out, then at least to control the black market. As usual with illegal dealing, it is the Georgians and other southerners who are in the forefront of the used car business. On patches of waste land on the outskirts of Moscow you can see hundreds of prospective buyers bargaining with the owners of second-hand vehicles, many of which would scarcely pass muster even in the most run-down London car lot.

But sporadic attempts to regulate the car trade seem unlikely to subdue what seems to be an irrepressible Russian desire to own a car despite all the obstacles and difficulties. Officials say they want to avoid the "negative consequences of uncontrolled automobilization" and have held back development of a network of repair and service stations. Certainly facilities for the motorist remain rudimentary.

There are only 38 petrol stations in Moscow, 21 of them for foreigners and diplomats only. Car batteries are *defitsitny* – temporarily unobtainable – so are windscreen wipers, with the result that most prudent car owners carefully remove theirs whenever they park and put them back on only when it starts to rain. Thefts of car parts have soared, and some Russians are reluctant to buy the more elaborate Zhiguli models in case they are stripped of all external gadgetry.

The huge eight-lane highways which radiate from the centre of Moscow like the spokes of a wheel have not yet become clogged up with traffic. But they are not as empty as they used to be, and the Moscow traffic system, which is based on a complex system of ring roads intersecting the boulevards, is not designed to cope with the heavy traffic of a modern city.

One improvement now being planned is the installation of automatic traffic lights. Most of Moscow's traffic lights are still manually operated, with a traffic policeman perched above the road in a glass control-box

Even when automation arrives, however, the traffic police will stay on in strength, if only to bring traffic to a halt when some high level official comes thundering down the middle of the road from the Kremlin in his black limousine with curtains on the windows. For the elite there are no shortages of new cars, no traffic fines, no traffic jams, and plenty of spare parts.

US-born bishop murdered in Nicaragua

Mangua (Reuter AFP) – Rebels shot dead an American-born bishop after kidnapping him near Nicaragua's northern border with Honduras, the Government announced yesterday.

An official radio announcement said Bishop Salvador Schlaefer, aged 65, was killed by right-wing rebels when "putting up resistance".

Mgr Schlaefer, the Bishop of Bluefield's on the Atlantic coast, was seized with an American priest, Wendolin Schafer, and two Miskito Indian lay churchmen earlier this week

● ROME: The Pope said yesterday that if Bishop Schlaefer had been murdered, "it would be very sad news which covers this pre-Christmas time with sadness".

هكذا من الأصل

THE ARTS

Cinema

Special effects of Christmas

Brainstorm (15)
Empire

Krull (PG)
Odeon Leicester Square

Family Business
ICA

It is only the reminiscent Spirit of Christmas Past that forces the confession out of me: this week is the exact fiftieth anniversary of my first film. I hasten to add (since ordinarily I would never admit to much over forty) that I was a very tiny creature indeed. Only the suitability of the film, which was Paramount's *Alice in Wonderland*, and the fact that as a babe in arms I got in free (money was tight in the Depression years) could explain that first cinema outing. Even so I remember the circumstances clearly. It was a matinée, but it was already dark and snowing hard when I was carried home. I was wearing brown corduroy leggings of the kind in which they then coddled children; and while these were being peeled off I was shown the book and the Tenniel illustrations, and marvelled how these people had arrived home before me.

From that moment I was hooked, utterly, on the cinema and insisted on being taken again and again, however unsuitable the film. They cannot have paid much heed to the British Board of Film Censors at the Plaza and the Corn Exchange in Lincoln, because I remember being scared to jelly by "H"-certificate films. More agreeably, the reprobate W. C. Fields, who was Humpty Dumpty in that *Alice*, became a passion. I saw every film he played in, could not distinguish him from my flesh-and-blood uncles, and worship him to this day. From that moment, at Christmas 1933, my fate and future were determined.

Is such precocious formation good, bad or inevitable? The moral of the story is not clear. One purpose of telling it, though, apart from indulgent reminiscence, is that it shows how, at one time, the cinema industry really took note of Christmas, and made and showed films that would grab family audiences at a time when competing distractions, not to speak of seasonal colds, would otherwise have decimated attendances. They recognized that in the Christmas holidays children can twist parents round their little fingers. All the cinemas had to do was to pull in the children: the families would follow. This seasonal principal went back at least es far as 1899 when Georges Méliès's tableau film *Cinderella* played all the music halls refined enough for children to be taken to them.

Those days are gone. The competition of television is too great and no one bothers any more. There is nothing at all seasonal about the current releases: *Never Say Never Again*, *Jaws 3D* and *Trading Places*, with *Flying Sex*, *Private French Lessons* and *Let's Make a Dirty Movie* for more *recherché* adult tastes. The single exception is Disneys' Christmas double bill of *The Jungle Book* and *Mickey's Christmas Carol*. Just to prove that there can still be life in old market formulas, it is doing very nicely, thank you.

Of course it may be that the cinema trade reckons that today's Computer Kids want not cartoons and fairy tales but the sort of electronic special effects which are the principal purpose of this week's two commercial releases.

In films like *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* and *Blade Runner* Douglas Trumbull, who had already directed *Silent Running*, established himself as the king of special effects. For **Brainstorm** he was producer, director and supervisor of the special effects, which use 70mm Panavision film. The story is about two research scientists, working for a commercial company, who develop a device which can record and reproduce the combined sensations of the human intellect, imagination and emotions. Their first elation is rapidly dashed as they see their discovery exploited by their ruthless employers and, converted to a brain-washing device, by the military authorities.

The film struck the worst of possible luck. Natalie Wood, who plays the estranged wife of the male scientist (Christopher Walken), died before her part was finished; and, despite cunning patching and restructuring, it leaves this central relationship rather sketchy. A bigger drawback, even so, is that the imaginative conception of the script (by Robert Stitzel and Philip Frank Messina, from a story by Bruce Joel Rubin) falls far short of the technology of the effects in sophistication.

The woman scientist (Louise Fletcher) dies of cardiac failure but before departure has the presence of mind to hitch herself to the machine so as to record *all* the sensations of death. Death, however, turns out to be only a flight of animated soap bubbles rather like double-exposure picture-postcards of the 1900s. The dénouement to effect the undoing of the villains simply degenerates into low farce, as Tatiesque electronic robots run amok and set upon their masters. After that it all simply comes inconsequentially to a halt.

Krull, directed by Peter Yates, combines sword and sorcery with space. The story is fairly incomprehensible. Set on the far-off planet Krull, it manages to combine elements of Homeric and Arthurian romance (some of the characters have Celtic-sounding names like Colwyn and Ynyr), *Romeo and Juliet* and *Beauty and the Beast* and *King Kong*. The princely hero battles with the Beast on behalf of the heroine, variously abetted by character parts (Freddie Jones) and make-up jobs (Bernard Bresslaw's self-conscious Cyclops).

All among the rigmarole there are visionary moments – a giant spider's-web, or the disintegration of the Beast's castle – though the most magical effect of all is provided almost without trick work: the ride of the Fire Horses, a thundering herd of lovely white Clydesdales.

Family Business, directed by Tom Cohen and filmed by Tom Hurwitz, is a slice-of-life anthropological study of two aspects of Middle America: the family and business. Howard Snider is a former Marine lieutenant-colonel now struggling in the manacles of a Sharkey Pizza Parlour concession, assisted by his large, loyal and rather bored family of wife and eight children.

The intention of this kind of slice-of-life *cinéma verité*, filmed at length, with a minimum of editorial intervention, is to permit the people to reveal themselves and their inner feelings and motives. In fact they rarely do this, any more than people reveal themselves in real life, even without a camera there. Consequently we find ourselves a great deal more fascinated by the mechanical processes of making and marketing pizzas than with the rather elusive sentiments and relationships of this pleasant, moody family facing the odds of Reaganomics.

David Robinson



Douglas Trumble directing Natalie Wood in her last film, *Brainstorm*

Television

Deftly delightful

On the face of it, the story behind last night's Channel 4 film **Accounts** did not seem to offer enough to sustain a full-length feature film but in the event its simplicity proved to be its strength.

A recently-widowed woman and her two sons, aged 19 and 17, move from their Northumberland tenanted farm to sink their fortunes in a hill farm of their own in the Scottish border country. From this Michael Wilcox developed – from his stage play, which won him an award in 1981 – a study of their relationships with each other, the land, and the outside world which never lost its hold.

It was an intimate piece of work including a keenly-observed examination of adolescent sexuality and a daunting portrait of the hazards of life on a hill farm. The family come to terms with their differing compulsions and each other while skirting bankruptcy and potentially hazardous personal encounters.

Robert Smeaton and Michael McNally played the elder and younger sons respectively: the first impulsive, inclined to be sexually predatory but not without sensitivity; the second more disciplined in his behaviour and leaning towards a less orthodox type of sexuality that would, one might think, cause the odd problem in such a hardy community.

In their contrasting roles both did marvellously well, giving an impressive portrayal of sibling rivalry and affection. As their mother, Elspeth Charlton also convinced. All three looked at home, someone having taken the precaution of giving the boys, naturally most in contact with the mud and the blood, a pre-filming stint on a farm.

These were their first acting roles, which says much for them and the director Michael Darlow, who handled this delightful, moving and picturesque film deftly. I note that he comes from Newcastle so that none of the Geordie dialect, which gave me moments of incomprehensibility, would trouble him at all. Despite these little thickets when I was at a loss with the sound, I thought his film the most refreshing so far from Channel 4.

Dennis Hackett

London debuts

Flexible partnership

The most finished playing of the week came from the Australian flute and harpsichord duo of **Vernon Hill** and **Roger Heagney** – not surprisingly, in view of their considerable experience at home. Besides a close blend of refined and mellow tone, their partnership was distinguished by intimate give and take; sonatas by Bach, Handel, Mozart and the little-known Michael Blavet emerged all the more stylish and piquant because so truly shared. Fine breath-control enabled Mr Hill to sustain Bach's slow cantilena with more intensity than often heard from a flute. Mr Heagney's velvet fingers in their turn encouraged his Rubio (after Taskin) harpsichord to sing in a way Haydn might not have thought possible when writing his solo Sonata in G.

David Teie's quiet command of his cello and poised, truth-seeking musicianship found ideal outlet in Bach's taxing unacompanied Suite in D, given a clear-cut, purposeful sense of direction without any suggestion of an interpreter at work. This American's full, warm tone and infinite capacity for taking pains were valuable assets in Beethoven's E flat Variations and Debussy's Sonata, too, though the French work, in particular, needs a touch more intensity and temperament – from the reliable Myriam Teie at the piano as well.

Clashing debuts only permitted appraisal of Sweden's **Garcia Trio** in Schubert's B flat Trio, a sympathetic, well co-ordinated performance of considerable first-movement breadth, and in an explosive movement by Shostakovich played as encore. Here, any earlier suspicion that the group's leadership came from Ingemar Edgren at the piano was routed by the biting urgency of Gustavo Garcia's violin and Goran Holmstrand's cello.

Of the week's two pianists, the Korean **Hyung-Kyu Kim** played early variations by Beethoven and Scubert's A minor Sonata, Op 143, with such incisive articulation and rhythm, and so positive a response to contrasts of mood, that it was easy to condone the forceful dynamic level at which she chose to project this music – and five Temperamental Sketches by her compatriot Isang Yun. But in Chopin's 24 Preludes her insistence verged on the insensitive.

Attempting to extract the last drop, the American pianist **Barry Goldsmith** often sacrificed stability of rhythm, elegance of line and beauty of tone. Bach's B flat minor Prelude and Fugue and Beethoven's late A major Sonata were unstylish in their impulsive flexibility, and even Berg's highly-strung Op 1 needed a firmer contour besides greater textural clarity. Except for a slow but commendably poised funeral march, Chopin's B flat minor Sonata emerged no less militant than his "Revolutionary" Study.

Joan Chissell

Theatre in New York

Broadway invalid sent back to bed

***Doonesbury*: Laura Dean up in arms with Keith Szarabajka**

Broadway, suffering from an all-time low of new shows and reduced attendances for a new season, came at least temporarily alive with the opening of Peter Brook's *La Tragédie de Carmen*. The stunningly simple staging, rapturously received by most New York critics, is particularly effective in the confines of the Vivian Beaumont Theater, whose future is much in dispute. Brook definitively shows that the Beaumont's problematical space can be commanded to serve not only large-scale productions but small-cast, intimate, emotionaly piercing drama.

The two musicals opening just after *Carmen* sent Broadway's fabulous invalid image right back to hospital. Many critics fell upon *Marilyn* (Minskoff Theatre) as if it were a mad dog, but this sometimes earnest salute to Marilyn Monroe is only a sad pink poodle. The product of a committee of composers and producers, the show has some touching moments largely due to the poignant acting of Alyson Reed in the title role, but it is too fragmented to hold either as a tribute to the late star or as general entertainment.

The combination of kitsch (Las Vegas-type numbers, costumes and sets), intrusive characters like three performers representing destiny and one-dimensional supporting characters, including Marilyn's virtually nondescript three husbands, make the show more resumé than biography. Miss Reed imitates Monroe's voice and movements convincingly and sings well on her own, and as her adoring fan Willy Falk proves a show-stopping singer in his Broadway debut.

Doonesbury (Biltmore Theatre), with book and lyrics by Garry Trudeau, based upon his comic strip about US college life and politics, is a pleasant little show. The music of Elizabeth Swados, a composer whose signature is eclecticism so pervasive it belies individuality, is lively but sounds at least 10 years old.

Wedded to a book about graduating students whose off-campus home is threatened by a wheeler-dealer, the show has no satiric sting and emerges as an amiable entertainment likely to attract youths and Trudeau fans, but too middling to lure general audiences at Broadway prices. The ingratiating cast of 10 boasts an especially fetching singer-dancer named Laura Dean, who brings back all the good connotations to the word "cute". Peter Larkin's droll cut-out sets and Jacques Levy's staging move the show briskly.

The remaining new Broadway offerings resemble more a bland diet than a list of shows. Directed by and starring Carroll O'Connor (television's Archie Bunker), *Brothers* (Music Box) was the only original drama scheduled for this season and closed after one performance. His tale of a patriarch (Mr O'Connor) vainly trying to hold together his family and shipyard union had echoes of *All My Sons* and *Death of a Salesman*, but so faint that one longed for the sound of Arthur Miller grinding his axe. Limping along is *Amen Corner* (Nederlander Theatre), based upon a James Baldwin play about a Harlem evangelist, which distinguishes itself as a strange hybrid – a gospel musical without soul.

A revival of the tepid musical *Zorba* (Broadway Theatre) is buoyed by Anthony Quinn's performance in the title role and bubbles whenever Lila Kedrova comes onstage as an aging, waiflike courtesan. Al Pacino gives out star quality – along with tetchy mannerisms – in a revival of David Mamet's *American Buffalo* (Booth Theatre) which has become more noted for its offstage than onstage drama. James Hayden, so belivable as Mr Mamet's pitiful young junkie Bobby that he was unrecognizable as the same performer who made a praisworthy Broadway debut last season as a matinee idol-like Rodolfo in *A View from the Bridge*, died aged 29 from an overdose of heroin shortly into *American Buffalo's* run – an ironic and sad end to an exciting talent.

Most positive are new plays by two of our best younger playwrights. *Sound and Beauty* (Public Theater) shows the Chinese American dramatist David Henry Hwang turning to Japanese culture for the themes of two one-act oblique love stories encased in ritualized power struggles. The director-choreographer-actor John Lo stages both with a keen ear and eye for the interplay of silence and sound, action and stillness.

Christopher Durang's *Baby with Bathwater* (Playwrights Horizons) demonstrates that occasional comparisons of his approach with Aristophanes are apt. Here he dramatizes, with his customary fury and anarchic humour, the premise that the way to raise a happy, healthy child is to do everything possible to drive it crazy. A new Durang note, one of reconcilation, evolves by the end and gives hope that he may mature into the rare writer in whom inventiveness and craftsmanship become fast friends.

Holly Hill

Opera

Il trovatore
Grand, Leeds

Viva Verdi! Civil war has arrived in Leeds: not 1410 with the struggle for the throne of Aragon, but Spain in the 1930s. Leonora's house, the gypsy camp and the prison are all found within a decrepit railway siding, a handsome set by Micheal Yeargan with all the intricate iron-work and missing panes of frosted glass so dear to the theatre of revolution.

The action for the Anvil Chorus is provided by pick-axes hacking a long-dead railway-line and a few rifles being hit together; Azucena sings aloft an army truck which carts her off; and, at more harrowing moments, clouds of steam rise from the sidings as from the last expiring puffer.

The rest follows suit. Indeed the weakness of Andrei Serban's new production for Opera North is not that it imposes extraneous points but simply that it is rather pointless. Unlike Lavelli's *Norma* in Bonn, which it so closely resembles, it provides little opportunity for its protagonists to sharpen the original work on the whetstone of their newly-shaped roles.

So the music has to work rather harder. Alas, under the baton of Yan Pascal Tortelier, making his British operatic debut, it generally does not. There is energy enough, but it is light and fickle: every dotted rythm becomes perky, every triple metre a waltz with too little time spent feeling Verdi's pulse.

The Kansas-born James Dietsch is as yet a rather awkward Gnunt, though with an interestingly grainy voice. Eduardo Alvares grows through his performance as a Manrico whose dramatic spirit is willing even when his steely tenor grows weak. Natalia Rom, from Leningrad, is also a little short of stamina as Leonora though she sculpts every minute of her small-scale performance with exquisite care.

The entire evening is focused by Cynthia Buchan's Azucena, a performance of almost infinite shades of vocal and dramatic emotion which will surely grow to be a great one in another time, another place.

Hilary Finch

Kanawa/South Yorkshire Opera
City Hall, Sheffield

What better way for South Yorkshire Opera, a vital amateur company, to raise funds for next season's productions than by luring Dame Kiri Te Kanawa to Sheffield to give a gala concert with them? Only, of course, to make doubly sure of an audience by inviting Richard Baker along to introduce it.

Dame Kiri, accompanied tastefully by John Constable, began with some heavy-handed Handel. "Care selve" sounded almost like a Schubert song, though there was more fire to "Non disperar chi sà?"

But Mozart brought out better things from her. A poised "Chi sà, chi sà, qual sià", beautifully shaped, preceded a reading of the touching concert aria "Nehmt meinen Dank" that oozed childish innocence and charm, and by contrast in Countess Almaviva's aria from *Figaro*, "Dove sono", Dame Kiri seized with relish the opportunity for intense and subtle characterization, her voice at its smooth, rich and flexible best.

Similarly four of Canteloube's *Chants d'Auvergne* proved well suited to her. Simple their slightly naughty messages may be, yet they demand a voice of extraordinary flexibility and at the same time an intelligence that can retain the unblemished pastoral atmosphere which pervades them. Dame Kiri achieved just the right flavour, as she did in the three arias with which she ended. Scarcely a breath was perceivable in Juliet's romance "O quante volte" from Bellini's *I Capuleti ed I Montecchi*, while every ravishing gasp was made to tell in Puccini's "Vissi d'arte" and "Donde lieta" from operas far more famous, *Tosca* and *La Bohème*.

Between her groups of songs the South Yorkshire Opera Chorus, conducted by Terry Hobson and accompanied by Peter Rhodes, sang heartily and in English a wide selection of choruses. The sopranos may wobble slightly, but this is a well balanced choir with a gratifyingly strong line of tenors.

Stephen Pettitt

Yuri Lyubimov, whose production of *Tristan und Isolde* in Bologna was reviewed on this page earlier in the week, is to stage *Rigoletto* at next year's Maggio Musicale in Florence. It will open the festival on May 5. Lyubimov will again be working with the British designer Stefanos Lazaridis, who provided the sets for *Tristan*.

Theatre in London

Swan Esther
Young Vic

The obvious word for Frank Dunlop's outgoing Young Vic production is "unpretentious", provided nobody takes this as a recommendation. For anyone setting out to turn the Book of Esther into a musical, it is necessary to have a few pretensions.

The legend of a Jewish girl who becomes Queen of Persia, at a time of Jewish exterminations is a wonderful source for a political dramatist. The name of God never appears. What do appear are the themes of racist power and male supremacy; coupled with an elegantly ironic revenge plot containing numerous highly-charged ambiguities and puzzles to excite the inventions of anyone retelling the story.

To the Young Vic authors, Nick Munns (music) and J. Edward Oliver (lyrics), all it offers is a pretext for an anachronistic comedy they could have subtitled "Evita and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat". First produced, like a rabbit, out of his conjurer's box by her magician uncle Mordecai, Esther joins in the royal beauty contest, proclaiming her love for the King amid the jeers of the other girls, and steps forward to deliver a "Don't cry for me Medes and Persians" proclamation into the imperial microphone.

The authors have transformed Esther and Mordecai from Jews to Medians, so that, when the villainous Prime Minister Haman gets the pogrom going, they go to ground in a Median resistance café run by the ousted Queen Vashti. There is one electrifying moment, straight out of the Bible, where Esther, saying she can do nothing to help, changes her mind when Mordecai points out that she will be killed like the rest of her tribe.

Otherwise, the task of translating biblical scenes into a royal disco dance and aerobics class, and staging the downfall of David Henry's frock-coated Haman in a Chinese restaurant, leaves the drama unexplored.

Rice and Lloyd-Webber developed their style to tell a story; here the same tricks of sung narrative, fairy-tale characterization and danger-defusing dance music are there for their own sake, and the effect is antiseptically half-hearted. There are some good voices in the company; and Amanda Redman does more than the book to persuade you that the heroine's heart is in the right place.

Irving Wardle

Pop music

Madness
Lyceum

Madness, purveyors of the self-styled "Nutty Boys" sound, have long been London's favourite band. Their success has seen them grow with dignity from simple ska roots to a real musical force.

The maturing seven-piece Madness are a revelation. Augmented here by strings and Dick Cuthell's flexible reeds they eased through a store of witty, timeless pop songs with relaxed assurance and instrumental elan. Like the Small Faces and the Kinks before them Madness are capable of disguising everyday vignettes with a sardonic layer of glee; this artifice does not disguise the innate seriousness of their best numbers.

While the singers Suggs and Carl Smith swapped roles, the one as deadpan as the other was extrovert, the band rocked around a startling variety of styles from the clipped R&B of "Bed and Breakfast Man" to the psychedelic reggae of "Grey Day". Mike Barson's keyboards are the fulcrum of Madness music. Usually content to flesh out the sinuous rhythms of the drummer Woody and Mark Bedford, he occasionally added evocative leads that transported the sound to New Orleans; the jazzy vibes chords on "Moving Along" were one example of his subtlety.

The sombre reflection of "Embarrassment" and "Our House" have the same funny-peculiar intensity of vintage Ray Davis but the recent hit "The Sun and the Rain" is more idiosyncratic and experimental. I get the feeling that the group have reached the point of no return with this transition. They performed old stalwarts like "Baggy Trousers" and "The Prince" with good cheer and little conviction. Madness' integrity has never been in doubt but they may have finally outstripped even their own expectations.

Max Bell

SPECTRUM

Violent death and torture are shattering the peace of rural Namibia as South African units battle to hold the line against guerrillas. **Michael Hornsby** visits the bush where the seeds of civil war are being sown each day

A land in the shadow of terror

Gamma



Namibia patrol: "Most villagers say they feel more threatened by the security forces than by guerrillas"

Mpungu

The far north-eastern Kavango area of Namibia, only a few miles from the Angolan border, is normally a sleepy place: a Lutheran mission station with a small church and clinic and a scattering of tribal *kraals*, the traditional stockaded enclosures of thatched huts fashioned from stakes driven into the ground, near which a few scrawny cattle seek what nourishment they can from the dusty soil. It is typical of the peasant-farmer settlements in the border region along the Okovango river.

On the day earlier this month that I and another journalist visited Mpungu, however, it was bustling with unwonted and unwelcome activity. The day before a known informer used by the South African security forces had been shot dead in broad daylight by an unidentified assailant who then ran off. The killing was presumed to be the work of Swapo, the South West Africa People's Organization, which has been fighting a bush war for the independence of Namibia, as South West Africa is now known internationally, for the last 17 years.

The pastor, Nathaniel Shilongo, had immediately reported the incident to the nearby army base at Nepara. It was clear, however, that he was still regarded with intense suspicion by the white South African soldiers and camouflaged black members of a special anti-guerrilla unit known as Koevoet who had descended on Mpungu just before us in two of the wedge-shaped, mine-proof personnel carriers which are the main conveyance of the security forces.

Founded by Finnish missionaries in the last century, the Evangelical Lutheran Ovambo-Kavango Church, ELOC for short, now has an almost entirely indigenous black clergy, unlike the Roman Catholic church which is still largely run by white missionaries from Germany. It is the biggest church in Namibia and the South African security police tend to regard it as the ecclesiastical arm of Swapo, an organization that paradoxically also features in government propaganda as the godless agent of international communism.

Nervously mopping his sweat-beaded brow, Pastor Shilongo recited yet again his version of the shooting incident for his unwanted visitors. He had good reason to be worried. Koevoet – the name is Afrikaans for "crowbar" – operates as a special wing of the South African police, and has earned a notorious reputation for brutality.

Its twin functions are "interrogation" and "elimination" of Swapo agents and guerrillas, a brief which its members interpret liberally. Supposedly, like other elements of the security forces, it exists to protect Namibia's civilian population against the terrorists, or "terrs", as the South African authorities always refer to Swapo. But most villagers will tell you that they feel far more threatened by the security forces than by the terrs.



'We are tired of trouble, we just want independence'

In Rundu, about 150 miles east of Mpungu, another Lutheran pastor, Johannes Sindano, who was detained for three weeks earlier this year under draconian security laws modelled on those in force in South Africa proper, told us: "People are very, very frightened of Koevoet. They are more frightened of Koevoet than of Swapo because they see more of them."

Beatings and harassment are said to be routinely used against anyone suspected of withholding information about Swapo. Koevoet, whose membership is 90 per cent black, and the security police have the worst reputation, but young black Namibians recruited into the South West Africa Territorial Force (SWATF), which is now estimated to account for about 14,000 of the 50,000 men (including logistical back-up) which South Africa has in the territory, are also accused of bullying, intimidation and worse. Like Koevoet, the SWATF operates under white leadership.

Ndara Kapitango, a 63-year-old refugee from Angola, claims that some time last June two drunken bushmen soldiers of the SWATF came to his *kraal* near Mpungu, beat him up and held him over the fire on which he had been preparing his supper. He lost consciousness and was left lying at the edge of the fire. His right arm had to be amputated and he is still in the Mpungu clinic recuperating from appalling burns. Army sources say two soldiers have been "disciplined" for the incident.

"I fear a lot of people will be beaten up in the next few days (because of the shooting of the police informer)," Wilhelm Mpasi Setentu, the local headman, told us in his *kraal* on a low hill overlooking the Mpungu mission. "They started beating people up yesterday. We don't mind being questioned, but they beat us when we do not give the answers they want."

The white-haired old man, who remembers working as a kitchen boy for a German officer before the First World War when Namibia was still a German colony, then recalled, through an interpreter, a visit to his *kraal* last June by a group of white and black soldiers who accused him of helping Swapo. "They took my grandson outside, and fired a shot. We thought he was dead, then they came back and said 'that child is dead, now we are going to shoot you', and they pushed tha barrel of the gun against my forehead".

The old headman insisted that he had never had any contacts with Swapo. "People are confused. If you are on the side of the government, Swapo may kill you. If you are on the side of Swapo, the government beats you up and causes you trouble. So people don't know who to support. We are tired, we just want independence, because then the Boers will leave, and there will be peace."

That is a widely expressed sentiment. The guerrillas do, undoubtedly, have considerable support in Kavango, even though their main stronghold is in Ovamboland to the west. But many people are simply tired of the endless harassment, violence and fear.

The insurgents exercise their own forms of pressure. Villagers may be forced to supply food to give medical aid. Headmen who cooperate with the security forces are sometimes murdered. Last July Swapo guerrillas in eastern Kavango abducted two black members of Koevoet by night from their family *Kraal*, where they were on leave. They bound their hands behind their backs, led them into the bush and executed them.

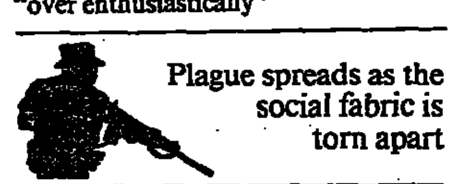
The killing unleashed a wave of retaliatory "interrogation" by the security forces, several of whom later claimed to have been beaten and given electric shocks while in detention.

The South African army is now chiefly occupied with maintaining control over a wide swathe of southern Angola. Military spokesmen coyly admit that the army patrols the area regularly and that units often spend weeks at a time inside Angolan territory. The aim is communication between Swapo's Angolan-based military command and its guerrillas operating inside Namibia to the south.

The task of hunting down the guerrillas has been increasingly "Namibianized" by turning it over to Koevoet, which, although it is not thought to have more than 1,200 men, is currently credited with more than 80 per cent of Swapo "kills". The unit's existence complicates the search for an independence settlement.

Formed about four years ago, Koevoet operates in small groups under the command of white South African police officers. Its headquarters are in Oshakati in Ovamboland, and it is jointly controlled by Brigadier Hans Dreyer, a former chief of security police in Natal and police headquarters in Pretoria. Koevoet's existence has only recently been admitted, and much of what it does is still shrouded in secrecy.

A spotlight was turned on the unit earlier this year, however, when an inquest found that Jona Hamukwaya, A primary school teacher, and Kaduma Katanga, a peasant-farmer, from the same village in Western Kavango, had been beaten to death within hours of being detained by Koevoet constables who claimed that "all teachers are Swapos". All that has happened so far is that two Koevoet men have been fined small sums of money for acting "over enthusiastically"



Plague spreads as the social fabric is torn apart

In a more recent case, Jonas Paulus, another Koevoet member, was sentenced to death for murdering a village headman in Ovamboland last January. During his trial, Paulus told the court that when guerrillas were suspected of being in an area, a Koevoet unit would go from *Kraal* to *Kraal* interrogating their inhabitants. "If they won't give us information, then one of our group assaults them, slaps them with his open hand, or beats them with a rifle butt".

Paulus also confirmed that Koevoet constables are paid about 350 rands a month (about £210), a salary which can be matched hardly anywhere else in the declining local economy. They also get bonuses, or "head money", depending on how many guerrillas their section kills in a month.

He also disclosed that Koevoet members are often issued with Soviet-made AK 47 rifles, the same weapon as used by Swapo. He himself was masquerading as a Swapo guerrilla when he committed the murder for which he was sentenced. This has lent credence to widespread allegations that Koevoet members sometimes dress up as Swapo guerrillas. If villagers offer food and shelter, they are allegedly beaten up or worse.

It is rare, however, for Koevoet members to be brought to book. Under the Defence Act, they are protected against prosecution if they can show they have acted "in good faith" in counterinsurgency operations.

There is also a tendency to condone the Koevoet's rough methods on the grounds that, as one magistrate put it, "terrorists are not handed to you on a platter".

The war is being contained in the sense that its cost is probably almost indefinitely sustainable by the South African exchequer, and in the sense that it is an obscure and remote conflict which seldom impinges on the consciousness of an outside world with much else to worry about.

The long-term cost to Namibia's social fabric, as the diplomats and politicians argue interminably over the territory's future, is bound to be severe. Thousands of civilians have been driven from their homes by the war in Ovamboland, and civilian health services have largely collapsed. There has been a rapid spread of bubonic plague over the past year. Now there is the fear that South Africa could be sowing the seeds for a civil war as they draw more and more local people into the fight against Swapo.

The vexatious path to a state of Satie-ty





Erik Satie and Reinbert de Leeuw: a Christmas best-seller

Almost 60 years after his death, Erik Satie, unquestionably the most eccentric of classical composers, has shocked the bourgeoisie once again.

A quirky bachelor of Franco-Scottish parentage, Satie wrote translucent piano music that sheltered under such absurdly irrelevant names as "bureaucratic sonatine", "desiccated embryos", "automatic descriptions", "intimate and secret musics" and "The I-want-you waltz". He did give one literal title, however, to a 90-second motif that he called *Vexations* and he ordered it to be played 840 times without a break.

This instruction was laughed off at the time as yet another of Satie's oddities, as implausible as his concept of "furniture music", sounds that would serve the same function as wallpaper. But when the age of muzak dawned many began to take Satie's philosophies very seriously indeed. Now, a determined Dutch musician, Reinbert de Leeuw, has recorded *Vexations* complete, 35 times on a single long-playing disc, itself to be played 24 times to achieve Satie's intention.

De Leeuw, a 45-year-old teacher at the Royal Conservatorium in The Hague, plays the 180 notes of *Vexations* woodenly, without variation, mistakes, or any change in volume, emphasis or inflection from one repetition to the next. The record has all the charm and subtlety of a water-torture session. Yet, to the astonishment of everyone involved, it has become one of 1983's Christmas best-sellers. Last month, it was Philips' top-selling classical record in The Netherlands. Released in Britain two weeks ago, the first batch of records sold out immediately and Philips were desperately cabling for more.

For De Leeuw, described by admirers as "a connoisseur of tranquility", the surprise hit marks the fulfilment of a 20-year-old ambition. He first rose to the challenge of *Vexations* in 1963 when the American composer John Cage hired a team of pianists to play the piece.

Four years later, De Leeuw hired a small hall on Amsterdam's Leidsekade for a solo attempt at a marathon world premiere. Unfortunately, no one told the caretaker of the historic nature of the recital and the pianist and his handful of listeners were ejected from the premises at 1am, having heard Satie's theme only 117 times.

No one in the record industry, however, can explain the sudden popularity of Satiefying monotony, although some executives have been heard muttering that an awful lot of people are buying Christmas presents this year for relatives they dislike intensely.

Norman Lebrecht

moreover... Miles Kington

Full Marx for old celluloid

The chief glory of the Christmas period for me is the season of films on BBC "starring the Marx Brothers, Judy Garland, Michael Caine and Cary Grant". None of the films with this all-star cast has ever been seen before, and me and my video recorder are going to be watching them all, and to hell with carol singers.

First off is *Bringing up Alfie*, a sparkling comedy in which Cary Grant and Judy Garland find the eight-year-old Michael Caine on their doorstep, with a note saying: "Please see this boy gets a good education or failing that, enough to eat, yours, Groucho." Michael Caine has such a good time being brought up that next week they find Groucho, Harpo and Chico in a basket on the doorstep. Most of the plot thereafter centres on whether Cary Grant or Michael Caine has the fake British accent.

Next is *Meet Me in Casablanca*, in which Judy Garland plays an itinerant singer trying to get to St Louis, but who has had the misfortune to book her passage with the Rufus T. Flyswat agency and ends up in Casablanca working as a chambermaid in the Imperial Hotel (proprietors: the Quasimodo brothers). Harpo turns in a beautiful cameo part as the brother with the hump, which he keeps detaching and putting on other people. Anyway, Cary Grant is the world-weary millionaire who books in at the Imperial and falls in love with Judy, who unfortunately is in love with Caine, the British spy. This film contains the famous scene where Chico is playing the piano in a club, and Groucho bursts in shouting "Don't play it again, Sam!" and shoots his brother, though not dead.

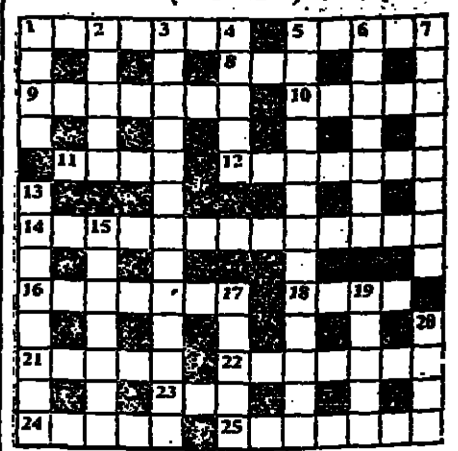
The six of them only made one thriller, *The Watercress File*, which stars Michael Caine as the food correspondent who has the secret of a foolproof mayonnaise, which the Russians would like to get hold of. Judy Garland and Cary Grant are the American couple who unwittingly get it instead and are pursued by the Russians, who want to kill them and Harpo, who wants to stop Judy Garland singing. Groucho persuades Michael Caine that he must kill Cary Grant to get it back, to which he replies: "But I've never shot a man before," and Groucho says: "You can't go around shooting women all your life". They compromise: Groucho agrees to shoot Judy and Caine agrees to shoot Harpo, who is limbering up for a harp solo. The end is somewhat confused, but it involves Cary Grant attempting to sing and getting mayonnaise all over his face.

Perhaps the least successful of the films they made is *The Marx Brothers go to Philadelphia*, in which Cary Grant and Michael Caine play two missing Marx Brothers, Blotto and Hippo. All five of them fall in love with Judy Garland, but she prefers to run off with James Stewart, who was on loan from MGM at the time. There is a baffling scene in which Harpo tries to enter a camel for the Kentucky Derby, but this is now thought to be a left-over sequence from *Meet Me in Casablanca*.

The greatest of all their films, on Boxing Day, is of course *The Idiot of Oz*, in which Groucho plays the title role, Judy Garland plays herself and Chico plays a piano in mid-air dangling from a balloon. Cary Grant for some reason speaks in an Australian accent throughout; it is now thought that he was misled by the title into thinking that the film was set in Australia. Harpo is superb as the Tin Man; every time he wants a meal, he simply wields a tin-opener on himself and produces a steaming casserole.

The opening scene, where everyone is picked up by a catastrophic hurricane in Kansas and transported thousands of miles, has never been bettered, certainly not in the recent remake *The Day After*. I shall always treasure the great moments from this film: Groucho picking up a brick from the Yellow Road and saying, "I knew this road when it was a public lavatory in Philadephia"; Cary Grant, as the lion, being tickled to death by Michael Caine; Harpo's Tin Man playing an all-aluminium harp – but why go on? It will all be happening over Christmas and old films, surely, are what Christmas is all about.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 231)



ACROSS
1 Sketch (7)
5 Nominates (5)
8 17th Greek letter (3)
9 Oder region (7)
10 Leans over (5)
11 Rouse (4)
12 Strictly correct (7)
14 Sovereign's eldest daughter (8,5)
16 Mischievous (7)
18 Exchange (4)
21 Projecting wood piece (5)
22 Have need of (7)
23 Financial support (3)
24 Live somewhere (5)
25 Surface growing (7)

DOWN
1 Medical measure (4)
2 Assign (5)
3 Educational (13)
4 Grip firmly (5)
5 No prosecution (5,8)
6 Foggily (7)
7 Resembling sister (8)
13 Animated (8)
15 Innocent girl (7)
17 Throng (5)
19 In reserve (5)
20 Do business (4)

SOLUTION TO No 230
ACROSS: 1 Crisis 5 Scheme 8 Tic 9 Impede 10 Eureka 11 Volt 12 Stampede 14 Eminence grise 17 Starkers 19 Exam 21 Adores 23 Nougat 24 Arc 25 Trendy 26 Eolith
DOWN: 2 Romeo 3 Sweetener 4 Stepson 5 Scena 6 Her 7 Mikados 13 Perpetual 15 Matador 16 Essence 18 Essay 20 Await 22 Ran

FRIDAY PAGE

MEDICAL BRIEFING



Elizabeth Taylor with Richard Burton, earlier this year

Beating the drug habit

Speculation is running on three fronts about why Liz Taylor has been admitted to a clinic to recover from the effects of long-term drug taking.

The least likely culprit is slimming tablets. These used to contain amphetamines, because of their appetite-suppressing qualities, but they have been known to be dangerous for some years and are no longer used widely to help people to lose weight.

The second possibility is that she has become dependent on pain killers taken to ease arthritis.

The third suggestion is that Miss Taylor may have become addicted to tranquillizers, which is an internationally recognized phenomenon.

Joan Jerome, organizer of Tranx, a self-help group to support people trying to reduce their intake of tranquillizers says that 1,200 people have been in contact with Tranx since it was launched a year ago. "At a rough guess 30 to 40 per cent of the people I have spoken to are men", she says, refuting the idea that this type of addiction is entirely a problem for women.

Joan Jerome has a DHSS grant for running the group in Brent and Harrow, though she has a network of contacts all over the country setting-up affiliated self-help groups.

There is no fee for joining Tranx, although participants are asked for a donation. Most people make initial contact by phone. "We send out a consent form and a chart for reducing the drugs taken, and then provide support", says the organizer.

Groups meet once a week to share problems and provide mutual support though it may take many months for a person to readjust to life without the support of drugs.

Anyone who is interested in joining Tranx and lives in the Brent and Harrow area can phone 01-427 2065.

Getting the needle



News that David Griffiths was treated by acupuncture to relieve severe knee pain was given just as much coverage last weekend as his triumph in finishing the 2,330 mile marathon from Peking to Hongkong to raise money for disabled athletes.

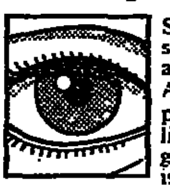
Few people now doubt the value of acupuncture in relieving chronic pain but western doctors, brought up to believe in the causality of science, must always ask why?

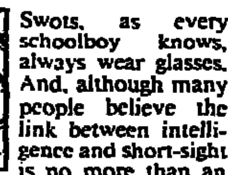
Studies have already implicated one major biochemical in relieving pain after acupuncture – beta-endorphin – which is released in the brain and circulates round the nervous system. And there are at least ten other "opioid peptides" with similar biochemical structure to endorphin which may also be involved.

But scientists are by no means unanimous in support of the beta-endorphin theory, though most agree that the "opioid peptides" must play some part. A paper published in the Lancet *last week suggested that yet another substance – met-enkephalin – might also be important.*

Successful acupuncture treatment given by doctors in this country tends to be given locally, with needles inserted where the pain is more intense. This makes sense. But why, as practised in the Far East, putting a needle in the left toe produces a sensation in an entirely different part of the body still remains a mystery.

Short-sighted swot





Swots, as every schoolboy knows, always wear glasses. And, although many people believe the link between intelligence and short-sight is no more than an old wives' tale, there is plenty of statistical evidence supporting the idea.

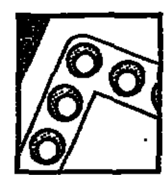
But nobody knows why the link exists: it may be genetic or it may be environmental.

Protagonists for an environmental link argue that short-sighted children probably find games a bit of a struggle so they naturally prefer to read or entertain themselves with games they can see – which all tend to be a bit cerebral.

The relevance of these different theories is that it is now possible to correct short-sightedness surgically. The technique was developed in the 1950s, but was not used much until there were unsubstantiated reports that the Russians were having high success rates.

Only in the last couple of years has more solid evidence emerged from the United States that some short-sight can be corrected by surgery. The main drawback is that permanent damage to the eye surface may occur inadvertently during the operation.

Barrier methods



Striking an acceptable balance between effectiveness and convenience is the hallmark of a good contraceptive. For women the Pill has always won the day (easy to use and very effective) and streets ahead of a diaphragm (laborious to insert) and an intra-uterine device (probably an abortefacient).

But recent Lancet reports linking long-term Pill use with cancer of the breast and cervix have frightened the most down-to-earth women.

Next year will see the launch of a new generation of barrier contraceptives. The first, probably on the market in mid-summer through clinics and chemists, is the disposable contraceptive sponge.

The initial clinical trial has been completed at the Margaret Pyke Centre in central London and compares the relative effectiveness of the sponge and diaphragm. Walli Bounds, research coordinator at the centre, says her results are being processed at the moment and will be available early in the new year.

But this trial should be little more than a formality. The sponge, which is soaked in spermicide is much simpler to insert than a diaphragm, has already been given UK licence and previous trials suggest it is just as safe as a diaphragm if used carefully.

Looking further ahead, Mrs Bounds is waiting for the go-ahead to start a trial on the Contracap – a US invention. The Contracap, a permanent diaphragm, is left covering the cervix for between six months and a year. It is designed with a valve mechanism so that excretions can flow out, but sperm is stopped from entering the womb.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

● **In last Friday's Medical Briefing, it should have been made clear that all frozen poultry should be thoroughly unfrozen before cooking.**

Beatrix Potter's stories have enchanted three young generations. Now **Caroline Moorehead** discovers the newly published letters of the Potter characters

Peter Rabbit's postbag

Mrs McGregor, poring over her pie dish and dreaming of a fine supper, may not have been much of a speller, but she was less agitated than Squirrel Nutkin after Mr Brown made off with his tail. Their letters, less than two inches high and packed into minute mail bags, have now been brought out in a book, companion to the 23 published tales of Beatrix Potter. In *Yours affectionately, Peter Rabbit*, Mrs Tiggy-Winkle frets over her starch, Jeremy Fisher (signing himself Jeremiah) explains why he never married and invitations pass between Tabitha Twitchit, the Flopsy Bunnies and Alderman Ptolemy.

One of the recipients of these enchanting letters was Beatrix Moore, Miss Potter's godchild and daughter of the governess who came to teach German at No 2 Bolton Gardens in 1883. Beatrix Moore later became a journalist and a contributor to the first issue of *Picture Post*. Beatrix Moore is now 80 and a somewhat cosy Beatrix Potter figure herself, with very bright blue round eyes.

The one memento Beatrix, now Mrs Hammarling, has of her godmother is a silver sugar bowl, a christening present sent to her mother in 1903. There is too the dedication in *The Pie and the Patty Pan*: "For Joan to read to baby".

"I well remember Beatrix Potter turning up to see us in Wandsworth", says Mrs Hammarling. "She wasn't a bit young or pretty but plump and rather rubicund. To me she seemed eccentric and elderly. She always wore a straw bonnet tied under her chin with a lace ribbon. She used to bring a cage of white mice with her and kept her horse and carriage waiting at the door."

It was Beatrix Moore's eldest brother Noel who could be said to have sparked off the celebrated books. Joan Carter stayed only two years as governess with the Potters before leaving to marry Edwin Moore. But the two young women, quite near in age, had become close friends and corresponded throughout their lives.

In 1893 when Joan's eldest son turned six and was ill in bed, Beatrix Potter wrote to him from Perthshire: "I don't know what to write to you, so I shall tell you a story about four little rabbits, whose names were Flopsy, Mopsy, Cottontail and Peter. . ."

Though nothing was to come of it for seven years, Noel kept the letter. During those years Beatrix Potter, a shy and solitary young women, was much put upon by her Victorian parents and took refuge in increasingly beautiful botanical drawings and her love for small animals. When, in 1901, she conceived of writing and illustrating children's stories, Beatrix remembered her early attempt and wrote asking for it. Printed privately, with black and white illustrations, *Peter Rabbit* was soon taken up by Frederick Warne who asked her to colour the drawings and then sold 27,000 copies in the first year. To the seven succeeding Moore children went *Little Pig Robinson*, *Squirrel Nutkin*, *The Tailor of Gloucester* (Mrs Hammarling's favourite), all based on illustrated letters sent to those same children many years before, and purporting to come from the animals themselves.

The miniature letters, illustrated with scurrying ducks and complacent cats, usually arrived at Christmas and were circulated among Beatrix Potter's young admirers. "She also always sent us an enormous turkey" remembers Mrs Hammarling. And every year came dresses for the two youngest girls: "They were always white party frocks with beading around the waist and lace and embroidery."

As the youngest in the family, born when Beatrix Potter was 37, Beatrix saw little of her godmother. She never joined her much older brothers and sisters on their summer visits to the Lake District, where they were terrified by Miss Potter's whiskery and gruff father. By the time the little girl was ten, Beatrix Potter had married a country solicitor called William Heelis and stopped writing altogether. She turned her back firmly on her small betrousered animals after a creative 13 years and dovoted the remaining 30 years of her life to farming.

"I do, though, remember her visiting us not long after the wedding and making us all laugh by saying that her honeymoon had been spent meeting a bull for the farm at the station." Later, too, Beatrix Potter wrote to Mrs Moore to suggest that her godchild be sent to university and that she would pay the fees. Mrs Hammarling laughs: "My mother was Victorian and very straightlaced. She would never have considered turning her daughter into a bluestocking."

The stories that followed Peter Rabbit were just as successful and a whole industry – plates, friezes, furry animals – soon built up around the animals, with Beatrix Potter overseeing the production of each book, insisting that it be kept small "for little hands to hold" and cheap, so that children (she called them "little rabbits") could afford them.

What is perhaps surprising is that so little of that fame attached itself to the young recipients of her letters – Louie Warne, who instigated *The Story of a Fierce Bad Rabbit* by complaining that Peter was too good, or Lucie Carr, the Lucie in *The Tale of Mrs Tiggy-Winkle*. Mrs Hammarling can recall no sense of being special in having such a very famous godmother, and Drew Fayle, the little boy whose idea it was that Jeremy Fisher should find himself a wife, has never been traced at all.

Beatrix Potter and, right top, Beatrix Moore, her god child. Above right Mrs Hammarling today

ALAN FRANKS

A cartilage torn in my knee



On the nth day of Christmas
my third-born gave to me
Twelve nights a-broken
Eleven times a-woken
Ten nappies soaken
Nine nasty tokens
Eight fags a-smoken
Seven yells a-choken
Six oaths a-spoken
FIVE COLD GRINS
Four falling curds
Three drenched friends
Two hurtled gloves
And this job doesn't carry a fee.



On the next day of Christmas
my second-born asked of me
Twelve knights a-cloaken
Eleven bikes bespoken
(He must be joking)
Nine Indians croaking
Eight cowboys gloating
Seven castles moaten
Six dragons smoking
FIVE VIKINGS
Four mauling words
Three henchmen
Two hurtful shoves
And a cartridge for a 3.3





On the last day of Christmas
my first-born meant to me
Twelve girls eloping
Eleven boys a-hoping
Ten padres poping
Nine mothers moping
Eight grannies coping
Seven brothers sloping
Six fathers toping
FIVE LARGE GINS
Four stalling birds
Three French men
Two pubertal loves
And I don't think this job is for me.

Victims of violence: the double trauma

Those who survive violence often have long-term psychological scars. It is a paradox that some of these scars are caused by the way victims are treated after the event and it is a problem for both doctors and the police: getting the balance right between offering too much and too little help is delicate. The Oxford Centre for Criminological Research has just reported findings with important implications for the way police should handle victims.

No one realized that there was any psychological problem until the hijack of a Dutch train by South Moluccans in 1975, when psychiatrists swung into action. As soon as they were rescued, the hostages were bundled off the train and on to stretchers. No one asked if they could walk by themselves. Then they were rushed off to hospital in ambulances. Dr Hans Prins, a biologist, the most vocal of the 23 victims, told me in 1977 that it was "like being hijacked all over again."

After the hijack, the former hostages complained of many small psychological problems but most of all of the belittling psychiatrists who had deemed them severely disturbed, nearly mad, because of their ordeal.

Britain has less faith in psychiatrists, and here attention has focused on how the police behave towards victims of crime, and they have been criticised particularly for their attitude towards women who have been raped. Dr Joanna Shapland of the Oxford Centre for Criminological Research told this week's London conference of the British Psychological Society that while many forces have learned to handle rape victims more sensitively, most victims soon develop a very jaundiced view of the police.

Funded by the Home Office, Dr Shapland studied 278 victims in Coventry and Northampton. Most had been physically, not sexually, assaulted, and often mauled badly. Their initial impressions of the police were good: 75 per cent praised the "first contact"; officers were not just efficient but, to use that much overused word, caring. One woman who had been sexually abused expected scepticism, or worse, because of recent publicity. She was surprised by "how kind and respectful they were." The problem was how to translate this initial impression into long term.

But Dr Shapland had to report that things soon got worse. She talked to victims about three weeks after the assault, and then contacted them for up to 18 months afterwards. Even three weeks on, satisfaction with the police had slumped.

Fourteen per cent of victims went so far as to say that if they were assaulted again they would not bother reporting it. Using classic rating scales, Dr Shapland found that victims soon came to rate the police as being significantly "less efficient, more offensive, less fair, more bureaucratic, more crooked, and less helpful." The change was dramatic.

"It's not often that psychology throws up such a common thread," admitted Dr Shapland, "I think we're looking at a real phenomenon."

And, if the Dutch smothered their victims with patronising care, Shapland found that the people in her sample felt, after a few weeks, "just not valued." Shapland does not want to turn the police into therapists in uniform but feels there is a serious mismatch, between what the police think is good practice and what victims feel they need. The police wanted to catch the criminal and, if they could not do that, to be "technically efficient" which often meant filling in the right forms at the right time. But surprisingly victims did not judge the police by whether they catch the villains or not. Arrests matter less than attention.

The psychology of this is not so odd even though it may offend those who claim that victims need retribution and revenge. To be assaulted is bad not just for a person's health but for their self esteem. They feel damaged. More than ever, therefore, they need to be well treated. Being well treated does not mean being fussed over by sergeant social workers but it should mean being told what is going on at the right time; when a case may come up; if an arrest had been made – and being given all that information with respect. To be denied that reinforces the initial damage.

The problem is that these human needs clash with what the police see as their main role. To be caring when someone is injured is not hard but to continue that care, three weeks later, when they are back home and fit is hardly the role of the great detective or brave constable. Yet Dr Shapland's survey suggests that the victims want and need policing that is humanly sensitive rather more than detective wizardry. It's not a finding to ignore.

David Cohen

TALKBACK

An insult to professional integrity

From Dr Penelope Leach, The Maze House, Rockhampton, Berkeley, Gloucestershire

As a reviewer, Rachel Cullen ("Bringing up baby", December 14) is entitled to express her opinions, and I must therefore ignore charges of authoritarianism, unrecognizable descriptions of "the Penelope Leach approach" and suggestions that I spend my time having the vapours over other women earning a living instead of earning my own.

I cannot, however, ignore Cullen's statement that I am "not above careful editing of the research evidence" to back up my views. The 200 references cited in my book *Babyhood* strike her as showing off; in fact they are there so that any interested reader can check my sources. I find this aspersion on my professional integrity as a researcher grossly offensive.

Cullen also says that I imply that "childminders are monsters . . . who will probably tie your child in a chair all day". Far from implying any such calumny, I believe – and have often stated – that most babies and toddlers are better off with the individual care of a good childminder than with the more institutionalized care offered by most day nurseries. Childminders have suffered from sensational reporting by the media; I strongly resent this on their behalf and reject Cullen's attempt to associate me with it.

Male expectations

From George W. Burdett, 85 Henley Road, Leicester

Like Doreen Turnbull (First Person, December 12), I sympathize with the large numbers of women whose husbands have died. I think that equal attention should be given to the question, "Why do men have a life expectancy of seven years less than women?" (One man in five will suffer a heart attack before 65).

The existing state pension scheme is weighted against men. Men pay in 80 per of the funds and receive 40 per cent in benefits. Earlier retirement (voluntary) for men is clearly desirable and the Government should turn its attention to this matter without delay.

On balance

From Sue Lewis, 18 Knoll Court, Farquhar Road, London

I was interested to read Caroline Harper's "My lesbian daughter" (December 16) and appreciated the frankness with which she shared her personal experience with the wider public, so that all of us might learn from it.

Her daughter had apparently been forward in her relationships with boyfriends during her teens and it occurred to me that she might then have missed out on the close friendships with other girls which most of us enjoyed in early adolescence, only to discover later, when disillusioned by menfriends, how good it was to share ideas and experiences with her own sex.

Educated in schools which have emphasized desegregation and at which friendships with the opposite sex have equal status at quite a young age, I wonder how many people have suffered a similar fate and subsequently felt the need to revert to their own sex to redress the balance?

From Keith Howes, 42 Lambolle Road, London NW3

Many thanks for the Friday Page article "My lesbian daughter" (December 16). Could we now have "My heterosexual mother", looking at life "highly uncomfortable, slanted and inevitably refracted through a (heterosexual) prism"?

NHS test at all ages

From M C Macnaughton, Muirhead Professor of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, University of Glasgow, Royal Infirmary, 10 Alexandra Parade, Glasgow.

Your correspondent, Hilaire Gomer, said in her article on December 7 – with regard to amniocentesis – that "in Britain any anxious mother can obviously have it done privately at any age at a cost of about £150".

I must point out that amniocentesis is now advised in most NHS maternity units at age 35 or over, and that any anxious mother under this age can have it done in an NHS maternity hospital. The reason it is not routinely recommended for women under 35 is that the risk of having a child with Down's Syndrome under this age is less than the risk of the test. It is not true that the test can only be done privately under 35.

Standing alone

From Lady Murray, British Embassy, Skarpogatan 6-8, Stockholm, Sweden

Mrs Jacinth Whittaker writing on "Ups and Downs of Life with One Leg" (Friday Page December 2) compares her life to "having a retired husband with none of the advantages. Instead of being cherished in later years, I have all my work and his too.

For the past 34 years I have shared my life with an above-knee amputee, who is now the same age as Mr Whittaker. In the early years he had a number of operations, and still has often pain, discomfort and other problems. But, largely due to his particular approach, our life together has been and still is, almost no different from that of our two-legged friends.

He has never wished me to accompany him to his limb fitter, doctor of prothetist. These occasions he deals with alone in the same way as he does his very demanding life – though he still sometimes falls over!

My advice to Mrs Whittaker would be to try not to overcompensate; to let her husband try everything he wishes to do alone; to let him decide and encourage him to do so. There are moments of agony waiting – as when my husband insists on skiing. She may well by surprised – as I still am – at the things her husband can and will do on his own.

Perhaps I am lucky. Every time I still have to reply to a third person's question "Which leg is it your husband is missing? I realise it is his determination to go it alone which makes this question necessary.

I hope that one day soon Mrs Whittaker may find herself being asked the same question.

Pill benefit

From Julia M. Cadman, 16 Newry Park, Chester.

At the age of 15 I was prescribed the contraceptive pill at my mother's suggestion and with my doctor's ready agreement. This was not in anticipation of sexual activity, but an attempt to control severe epilepsy. A marked monthly pattern in fits had emerged, such that on the last day of my period seven fits in 24 hours was not uncommon.

As a result of the new treatment, I went for six months without grand mals, ans sat and passed all eight "O"-levels I was taking. Had we been a little more aware of my childhood sexuality such treatment might have been lighted upon at an earlier stage, and the relief provided that much the greater.

THE TIMES DIARY

Floating campaigner

Paul Genney, who is challenging the election returns of Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Great Grimsby, seems to change his opinions quite a lot. Genney was Mitchell's agent in the 1979 general election. He then became one of the SDP's earliest converts and unsuccessfully tried to persuade Mitchell to leave the Labour Party too. His failure did not seem to result in any hard feelings on his part, for in March 1981 he wrote to the local Labour Party, "You have one of the finest constituency members in the country – take pride in his achievements". In his election address as SDP candidate for Great Grimsby this year, Genney asked: "What has your MP done for you?" The electors obviously thought he had done quite a lot since Mitchell retained his seat, albeit with a greatly reduced majority.

Literary germs

Secker and Warburg recently received a £200 bill for fumigating copies of James A. Michener's *Poland* which they had shipped to Australia. Peter Grose, the publishing director, replied by Telex: "We accept responsibility for all internal, corrupting, damaging, depraving, maddening, nightmare-inducing or soporific effects of the written word, but transmission of disease takes place outside the covers of the book and is therefore beyond our control and hence not our liability." Back came the reply: "For the entertainment value of Telex almost, repeat almost, tempted to wipe fumigation charges." In the end Grose relented and paid the compulsory fee "in the interests of international goodwill and world health".

That figures

A colleague who called into a City branch of Wallace Heaton to have the battery in his calculator replaced was told, "Sorry, sir. We don't open up calculators in case they fall to bits."

Singing praises

At an occasion called Carols for Peace held this week in Chelsea, a choir from the Russian Orthodox Church mingled harmoniously with their more worldly countrymen from the Embassy, and Britons of various political persuasions. A Russian professor who was one of the guests thought that Graham Greene should win the Nobel Literature prize and also divulged that Mr Andropov's favourite author was Erskine Caldwell, author of those two ironic sagas of the American South, *God's Little Acre* and *Tobacco Road*.

BARRY FANTONI



"Neville will be OK. He hasn't worked anywhere for years"

Disarming

John Silkin, the chief Opposition spokesman on defence and disarmament, has just been elected president of the Parliamentarians for World Order. This means that he will be out of the country quite a bit for the organization holds meetings every other month in New York as well as regular regional conferences, often abroad. The announcement goes on to stress that Mr Silkin's new job is a very important one. Indeed, packing and unpacking his suitcase will keep the new president so busy that most defence and disarmament issues will now have to be dealt with by Denzil Davies.

Port both ways

Reproducing paintings for Christmas cards is a chancy business. The Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners' Royal Benevolent Society has chosen Canaletto's painting of Westminster Bridge from the North, with Lambeth Palace in the distance. Owing to the printing process, the painting is the wrong way round. "No wonder they get shipwrecked", said one recipient.

To the point

The Pheasantry in the King's Road, once the haunt of Diaghilev and the Russian Ballet, has gone into receivership. The Receiver hopes very much that the restaurants on the original Pheasantry site will keep going and has already had two offers for them. The fact that the Pheasantry retains their original arch and courtyard is due to the Friends of Chelsea, who stopped an officially-approved skyscraper going up. Their appeal was led by Princess Jane Astafieva, granddaughter of the Princess Seraphine Astafieva, who ran a ballet school at the Pheasantry, and Dame Margot Fonteyn, a former pupil of the school. Luckily, the developer was devoted to the ballet and, invited to lunch with Dame Margot, tore up his original plans on the spot.

PHS

Terror: let's fight it together

After the Harrods bomb, Garret FitzGerald, the Irish Prime Minister, calls for closer cooperation in combating the IRA killers

As I write, five British families, two in the Irish Republic and one in Northern Ireland have been bereaved by the terrorist violence of the past week. Such is the situation we all face that we must pray that the total may not be higher by the time these words are published.

The Irish people feel this Christmas a stronger sense of shared grief and shared outrage with the British people than at any time I can recall. Our ambassador in London, Mr Noel Dorr, has reported to us that in his hospital visits to the injured victims of last Saturday's bombing he was received warmly and without rancour. Mr Dorr spoke for millions of Irish people in Ireland and, indeed, in Britain in expressing our sympathy and good wishes to those admirable people and our profound horror at the crime which has afflicted them.

It may not be fully understood in Britain that the abhorrence of Irish people at this event is especially strong because the explosion was caused by criminals who, with no justification whatever, purport to create enmity between us and the British. For our part I can say that Mrs Thatcher's message to me expressing sympathy to those families of the two members of our security forces killed by the IRA last Friday in the operation which led to the release of the kidnapped Mr Don Tidey, a British citizen, was warmly appreciated here in Ireland. This is therefore a moment of emotional solidarity across the Irish Sea. It is the duty of political leadership now to ensure that enduring good comes out of these tragedies.

Behind these terrible events, and at the heart of Anglo-Irish relations, lies the extremely complex and intractable political problem of Northern Ireland which we have an overwhelming moral obligation to solve. Any solution will require difficult decisions from each of the protagonists, the British government and political parties, the Irish government and political parties and all non-violent parties in Northern Ireland.

The constitutional Irish nationalist response has been to bring together parties representing 90 per cent of the nationalist voters, North and South, in a New Ireland Forum to seek a path forward towards the objective of peace and stability, seeking ways of reconciling the two Irish traditions.

Within three months we shall know just how successful this initiative has been and whether it can provide a basis for a fresh start in tackling that alienation of Northern nationalists from the political and security processes which underlies the continued violence within, and emanating from, Northern Ireland. To the extent that the forum comes up with worthwhile ideas that could provide a basis for peace, stability and reconciliation, it will then be for the British government and political leaders to decide whether and how to respond to them.

No one should doubt the will of Irish democratic politicians to tackle the security problems of this island. Whether through the unique process under which IRA terrorists are jailed in the South for crimes of violence or prison escapes in Northern Ireland, for involvement in explosions in Britain, or else through extradition decisions in respect of terrorists like McGlinchey – which was ordered by the Supreme Court last year and is awaiting only his capture – no refuge will begin in our state to any who commit crimes of violence in these islands.

We would ask the British government, political parties and the British public to join with the Irish in a commitment against the gunmen, a commitment to exclude them from a say in our future. That can only mean joining with constitutional politicians in Ireland in a single urgent effort to create structures which will bring peace and real political progress.

The gunmen have been sustained not only by a distorted sense of history but at times by an over-emphasis on security policy at the expense of politics, the impact of which on the ground has contributed to the profound alienation of many among the minority in Northern Ireland. A different and somewhat contrasting error which has encouraged the IRA in particular, and which has been particularly resented by British politicians, has been the series of direct or indirect contacts with the IRA and Sinn Fein on the part of past Secretaries of State and, in one notable instance, of a leader of the Opposition: this has bolstered the gunmen's conviction that by continuing to bomb and to murder, they will eventually prevail politically.

The only convincing way that governments and politicians can now demonstrate their resolution to stand against terrorism is to act urgently and resolutely together on the political front and to exclude rigorously from that effort those who support extremism.

This is what we are trying to do in Ireland. The next step must be that we all do it together. The British and Irish peoples will want to ensure that their innocent dead will not have died in vain. The problems are immense but I believe that our will to succeed, backed by the growing concern of all the people of these two islands, is greater now than ever before.

Robert Fisk goes on patrol with the Queen's Royal Lancers

Beirut, a battle honour these soldiers don't seek

Terry Fincher



Corporal Steve Collingwood of Birmingham, awaiting the action in Beirut: the Royal Lancers have a "cold detachment" about events in Lebanon except where they impinge directly on the British

On the wall of the newly-plastered officers' mess at Hadeth, Major J. Roland Smyth is leading his 16th (Queen's Own) Lancers to victory at the Battle of Aliwal on January 28, 1846. The faintly-coloured lithograph portrays Major Smyth, a moustachioed figure on a rather bovine horse, galloping along at the head of some ferocious-looking cavalrymen to the horror of fleeing Sikh warriors.

The picture, whose caption gravely records the serious wounds which the major sustained later in the battle, occupies pride of place in the new mess which the officers of the British Army's tiny contingent to the multinational force in Beirut have just been refurbishing.

You could just hear the Lebanese army tanks and the local Shia Muslim militia celebrating the latest ceasefire by shooting at each other at Galerie Semaan, but Lt Alec Campbell was dutifully plastering over the bullet holes and broken picture hooks which the Syrian army left behind in 1982, turning the room into a place fit for the young gentlemen of what is now the 16th/5th Queen's Royal Lancers.

They have, it is true, covered the wooden door with a dreadful red plastic cloth that makes it look like the entrance to a Beirut night club. But Mr Campbell is clearly a dab hand with a trowel even if his colleagues did disagree about one of the bullet holes in the wall. It was created earlier this month by a gunman who sprayed the British headquarters with automatic fire a few hours after Mr Campbell had been unwise enough to hang two prized 1822 family prints above the sofa missing the pictures but smashing the antique frames and leaving a gash in the wall.

That particular hole in the wall was part of an attack which caused both Mrs Thatcher and Mr Heseltine some very considerable worries. At Westminster, the Opposition suggested that perhaps the British really had no business in Lebanon. In the mess at Hadeth, the reaction was somewhat different: Corporal Nicholl made off with the spent bullet while Mr Campbell's colleagues very firmly told him not to plaster over the hole. It had to remain there: a memento, a battle honour.

They are very young soldiers, rather clubby in a public school sort of way, although they don't like the public school tag. When they saw a *Private Eye* lampoon suggesting they spent their time playing bridge and listening to the BBC World Service to find out what was going on down the road, they greeted the article with interest but something less than amusement. They do listen to the World Service voraciously but spend much of their time on vehicle checkpoints or endlessly patrolling the same hot, packed streets in Beirut.

Events in Lebanon are treated in a detached, cold fashion except where they directly impinge on the British. You can detect this when Major Robin Faulkner, the Commander of the 16th/5th "A" Squadron, tells you about the shells that traversed the British base a few days ago.

"The first shell landed just over there," he says, pointing down from the roof at an earth pit. "The second landed over there beside the factory. And the others ..." Here there is a sharp glance in your direction. "And the others, I'm glad to say, went on towards Beirut." There is just the faintest trace of a smile.

By contrast, there was consternation in the mess when the BBC reported the bomb explosion at Harrods. Perhaps there has simply been – as yet – no reason for anger over Lebanon, which sometimes seems more like an adventure than a duty. Take Lt David Edie's patrol up the wadi last week. Mr Edie (Eton) calls it the "wadi" although in fact it is a mud track beside the bed of the Beirut river. The sand-coloured Ferrets bump and rock their way through miniature lakes with Edie's head protruding from the leading vehicle until, a round a corner in the gorge, we are facing a massive, broken Roman aqueduct.

While the Ferret crews idle the engines, we climb up the height of the three arches and find a Roman tunnel cut deep into the mountain. Edie climbs inside, rifle in one hand, dust cascading on to his beret. And after a few seconds, an excited shout as he finds another tunnel, a 100ft shaft carved upwards through the solid rock at the time of Caracalla.

But then, as he emerges into the sun, there is a sudden, rushing sound, deafening, and an F-14 jet races up the valley at almost supersonic speed.

Lt Edie has developed the disturbing habit of leading his armoured reconnaissance patrols into some of the world's greatest and most inextricable traffic jams. Every side street in East or West Beirut up which Mr Edie turns seems to envelop his Ferrets in a choking mass of taxis, trucks, lottery vendors and yelling street urchins from which long-suffering Lebanese policemen attempt to extract him with encouraging asides of the "England good" variety. Trapped in the chaos of the Bourj Hammoud Armenian market, Mr Edie's head emerged from the Ferret and turned towards us. "I hope you're not in any kind of a hurry," he shouted.

Despite the setting, the radio identification codes are extremely English. The commanding officer is "Sunray", the doctor is "Starlight", the watchkeeper is invariably "Mushroom". The Lebanese army is inevitably "Cedar". Sunray is Lt-Col Gordon Ferguson of the Queen's Dragoon Guards, one of the cocktail of "other regiments" that are attached to the Lancers in Beirut.

Colonel Ferguson has a pretty shrewd idea just how dangerous the British patrols could turn out to be.

The 16th/5th went to Lurgan in 1980 – Beirut is less boring, they say – but they don't talk much about Ireland

Mention regimental history, however, and Lt Campbell produces a small volume and begins reading aloud from it for a very long time, on and on about Aliwal and a junior officer dying with 16 wounds whose last thought is to encourage the Lancers.

He knows the battle honours by heart: Malplaquet, Oudenard, Blenheim, Mons, Flanders ... If the 16th/5th are lucky, Lebanon will never be among them.

70 Down – how many more to go?

This week, according to all the reference books, sees the seventieth anniversary of the invention of the crossword puzzle. In fact, some puzzles that I discovered recently, show that the crossword is now well over 100 years old. But according to the *Guinness Book of Records* the earliest crossword was one with 32 clues invented by Arthur Wynne and published in the *New York World* on December 21, 1913.

Arthur Wynne was born in Liverpool in 1872 or '73. His father had been on the staff of the *Liverpool Mercury* from 1860 and, since Liverpool was the principal port for the United States, it seems reasonable to assume that the young Wynne would be familiar with American newspapers and magazines. If so, it must have stood him in good stead when he emigrated, in about 1905, and subsequently joined the *New York World*.

As Editor of the *World's* "Fun" supplement Wynne was responsible for compiling the weekly puzzle page. And for the issue before Christmas 1913, he decided something extra was needed.

His "Word-Cross", as he called it, was an instant success in the *New York World*. Within weeks, Wynne had switched from Word-Cross to Crossword, but the hyphen lingered on into the 1930s. Arthur Wynne's first puzzle gave little hint of the devastating effect that it was to have. The 1920s saw a crossword craze which, unlike many others, has never died, making the yo-yo, mahjong and Rubik's cube look what they were – simply passing fancies.

At its height, people used crosswords to announce their engagements, or to leave clues to the police to explain their suicide. Professors lauded them, libraries condemned them: they broke up homes or pleased the insane, depending upon which "expert" or news report was consulted. Anything and everything, from Broadway shows to tax returns, was "melt right toils" (anagram: 5,2,3,4).

Two newspapers stood out against the tide: *The Times* and the *New York Times*. The latter, in fact, resisted the crossword until as late as 1942. *The Times* succumbed somewhat earlier: on January 23, 1930.

By 1924 when the craze had almost reached its peak, Arthur Wynne had moved on from the *World* and was somewhat startled to find himself hailed as an inventor. As he wrote in the following year, "All I did was to take an idea as old as language and modernize it by the introduction of black squares." Leaving aside the fact that his first puzzle did not contain any black squares, how true was this extremely modest assessment!

Word squares as such date from at least the Roman era, as seen from the remarkable reversible square of Sator, found at Pompeii and Cirencester. At first, such arrangements were thought to have religious or magical significance, but gradually were seen to be no more than the bases for puzzles. By the Victorian period, word squares, diamonds and other shapes, with or without clues, began to form the staple diet of puzzle pages.

Roger Millington, in his aptly titled *The Strange World of the Crossword*, reproduced a "Double Diamond" from the *St Nicholas* magazine of December 1880 and speculated whether it might have been the source of Wynne's inspiration. He also wondered if there had been earlier examples of the same kind of puzzle. There had.

In the magazine's *"Riddle Box"* for September 1875, published in New York, I found a nine-nine by *Double Diamond*, described enthusiastically by its compiler, "Hyperion" – then, as now, pseudonyms were much favoured by compilers as "the largest ever made".

The task of the would-be solver was made more difficult by the lack of a grid in which to set the answers but, because of typographical limitations, this was quite normal. In many ways the inclusion of grids that was one of Arthur Wynne's major contributions.

Hyperion's *Double Diamond*, with its Across and Down clues and interlocking words is a crossword puzzle in all but name, making it the earliest yet to be discovered. The actual term crossword, in a variety of forms, had been in use since the 1860s, although the OED gives the date of 1914.

To give Wynne his due, his first "Word-Cross" was not *just* a word diamond with clues – it was a *hollow* diamond. It was this introduction of spaces within the matrix that allowed the crossword to develop away from the constraints of the original word squares, diamonds and other close-packed arrangements.

I found just such a hollow diamond in the *Wide Awake Pleasure Book*, published in Boston, Massachussetts in 1879. Compiled by "English Boy" of West Bethel, Maine, it has three Across and three Down clues, all for words of seven letters each. Even more than the "solid" word-diamonds of the period, it appears as a simple precursor of Wynne's original.

For some, talk of word diamonds will be less than convincing since most modern crosswords are square. The *Wide Awake Pleasure Book* of 1887 has what is possibly the first square "hollow" arrangements.

Prize Cross-Word Square (note the hyphen) compiled by Bella J. of New York City. The puzzle consists of a five by five square with three Across and three Down clues with all the answers five-lettered. For the first correct solution the puzzle editor, one Kit Clinton offered "a nice chromo".

Alas, no one claimed the prize. But looking at the actual clues, one is not exactly surprised. Some words were probably more familiar than now but many of the words are obscure. But to the modern puzzler, what is more daunting than obscurity is the use of general categories rather than precise definitions, which was customary at the time. Nevertheless, unlike some word squares offered to *St Nicholas* four years earlier, it was apparently judged not too difficult by the editor.

If these early crosswords appear small by modern standards, it is worth recalling that the first one published in this country, in 1924, was only seven by seven, and the five by five puzzle has been featured by *Games* magazine in recent years

What then remains unique to the modern crossword? The small reference numbers and the black squares? Not all countries use them and certainly not all the time. So, for the moment, it would seem that the crossword dates back from at least the 1870s. Somewhere there is an earlier crossword, waiting to be found.

Kenneth Miller

The holiday Jumbo crossword will be published tomorrow.

Simon Jenkins

The top shops that stay closed

Monopolies, someone once said, are like babies. We are against them until we have one of our own. A government minister robustly declared last week that the future of the closed shop was at last in jeopardy. In ringing tones, he declared that such restrictions were a "flagrant and fundamental denial of individual liberties ... not only morally wrong but deeply damaging to the economy and jobs."

Morally wrong? Why then, in the past month, has the same government acted to protect from deregulation two closed shops – those of stockbrokers and of conveyancing solicitors? The pressure placed on ministers was uncannily similar to that of "working-class" trade unions on a Labour government. Constituency parties leaned on their MPs. There were lobbies at Parliament (discreet, not mass ones). Members would murmer "crisis of professional conscience" to those father confessors of the body politic, the whips.

With all the passion of a Joe Wade, stockbrokers and solicitors alike argued the adjustments they had already made to the twin totems of Thatcherism, new technology and market forces. They pleaded the problems of adjustment. They pleaded hard cases. They pleaded social benefits from their monopolies. Only let the government protect them from the Office of Fair Trading and Austin Mitchell's House Buyer's Bill. So far they have won.

What is so defensible about midde-class unionism, but evil about the working-class variety? Why is a government ideologically committed to rooting out all and every monopoly so ready to conform to Marxism's sterotype of Tory class rule?

Myth and reality in British government remains an opaque topic. The Wilson and Callaghan administrations drew ideological inspiration from economic planning, growth and higher welfare spending. Yet in retrospect, these things seem a series of tawdry concessions to Labour's trade union backers. As ministers wrestled with the Protection of Employment Bill and countless public spending reviews, the reality was higher wages for public sector monopoly unions and greater legal privileges for private sector ones.

Mrs Thatcher's government presented itself as equally rational in its policy motivation. Markets were the engines of economic efficiency and must simply be allowed to work. Deregulation, privatization and legislation against restrictive practices were matters not for the heart but for the head. They were the keys to the larder of Tory economic prosperity. And as proof of Mrs Thatcher's determination, the new "cabinet of loners" would be secure against the pork-barrel, old-boy network which had made past administrations so prey to interest-group pressure. The government would do what was right, not what its supporters wanted. So we were told.

It was never going to be thus. From the upper-band tax cuts of 1979 through the company cars subsidy (now at £2 billion) to the increase in mortgage tax relief, a concern to protect the party's predominant interest among middle-class and middle-income groups has dominated ideology. Every year, Treasury officials pursuing what they thought to be the implications of a reduced subsidy economy have found the Cabinet adhering firmly to the maxim that middle-class subsidies are no sin.

Meanwhile, the farmer and the lawyer still stand like Gog and Magog glaring down on the deliberations of this Tory cabinet as they have done on all its predecessors. The Downing Street floor still trembles should any minister, especially from the Treasury, dare to trespass on their hallowed soil. Farmers are the one group a government can (through the CAP and manipulation of the green pound) protect from recession. The rate of increase in farm incomes over the past few years has been publicized enough in these columns. History will surely judge it one of the most extraordinary acts of political protection offered to any income group by any government since the war.

Lawyers likewise remain secure behind their myriad restrictive practices. The planning bar luxuriates in a fee structure (much of it at taxpayers expense) which the government has done nothing to reform.

It is a feature of middle-class restrictive practices that their practitioners are articulate as well as politically potent in their defence. Thus we are told the solicitors' (or architects' or accountants') closed shops are necessary to protect the public. They are a guarantee of quality. If high earnings result, they are due reward for the grind of apprenticeships. Lengthy training is *not to provide cheap labour to ease the lifestyle of senior professionals;* nor is it just the way all trade unions restrict supply to maintain earnings. It is a safeguard for the customer and an essential experience for the job.

Perhaps. But have we not heard all this from train drivers and electricians in defence of their restrictive practices? We heard it last month from the Post Office engineers – and we ridiculed it. Surely monopoly is monopoly, a conspiracy against the consumer. This Tory government claimed a mandate to fight monopoly. It has declared war on the trade union variety (though how many union closed shop members are now marginal Tory voters?). It has likewise pursued business and industry through the Office of Fair Trading and the Monopolies Commission. But industry is no favourite of modern Toryism.

No, the traditional interests of post-war Toryism, the land and the professions, are clear of blame for any of Britain's shortcomings. Mrs Thatcher, whose signal virtue is at least a consciousness of her mandate, has occasionally argued with her colleagues that these interests should be cut down to size. So far, she has argued in vain. A shrewd minister will still insist that the closed shops and restrictive practices of his supporters, their protective legislation and covert subsidies, are cement to the fabric of British society, the underpinning of the establishment. Tory monopolies must never die.

The author is Political Editor of The Economist.

Philip Howard

Enough legend to fill a stocking

Here we go again, then.

The time draws near the birth of Christ:
The moon is hid: the night is still:
The Christmas bells from hill to hill
Answer each other in the mist.

Either we have all the walnuts and tangerines and Dinky toys we are going to need, or it is too late to do anything about it. It is time to get out the long, hairy Lovat hose. My mother-in-law has been waging an unsuccessful campaign for 20 years to dress me like an Edwardian country gent in loud tweed knickerbockers. Here comes the night of the year on which the gigantic stockings come in useful.

Tomorrow is, of course, not really the night of Santa Claus, to use the name that Dutch and German immigrants to America gave St Nicholas. His night is December 6. And his connexion with kiddies is tenuous. The belief that the fourth-century Bishop of Myra restored to life three small boys who had been carved up and pickled as pork, so demonstrating his love for children, is based on a misunderstanding of pictures showing him having three grown men released from a tower prison.

His three golden balls (St Nicholas is the patron saint of pawnbrokers and Russia, as well as of spoiling children) come from the legend that he threw three bags of gold through a window as dowries to save three poor girls from a fate worse than death.

Though Nicholas is one of the most popular saints in both the Greek and the Latin churches, almost nothing is known about him. According to tradition, he was Bishop of Myra, a rundown diocese in Asia Minor. He is said to have been imprisoned for his faith during the persecution of the Christians under Diocletian, and to have been present at the Council of Nicaea, where he denounced Arianism. Do not believe the last claim. His name is not included in any of the early lists of bishops present at the council; nor does Athanasius refer to Nicholas in his voluminous and polemical writings.

Nicholas first emerges from legend into history in the Church of St Priscus and St Nicholas, founded at Constantinople by the Emperor Justinian. He became a popular cult figure in the west after the inhabitants of Bari claimed to have got hold of some bits and pieces of his relics in 1087.

No: if we are going to be canonical, tomorrow is St Irmina's Night. (Who she? *Ed.*)

Irmina is not one of your first-division saints: but neither is she one of your rapscallion saints, who ought to have been cannonaded rather than canonized. Irmina comes about halfway down the Southern League, just above Basingstoke. Her story is really more suitable for an operatic heroine, in something by Verdi or Bellini, than for pieties in stained glass.

She was the daughter of Dagobert, King of the Franks at the turn of the sixth century, and wildly in love with the goy next door, a German called Hermann. She was on her way to Treves to marry Count Hermann, when a young man called Edgar, who was travelling in her wedding party, fell head over heels in love with her.

Edgar galloped on ahead of the Frankish party, and told Hermann that there was a foreign merchant in the district from whom he could buy a remarkable jewel as a surprise wedding present for Irmina. He lured the silly Count up to a high rock overlooking the Moselle, and grappled with him until they both fell to their deaths. I can hear the opportunity for a pretty tempestuous tenor and bass duet at this point: and I can imagine the same difficulties of stage-management that face the producer in the last Act of *Tosca*.

The end of the story is quieter. Irmina immediately took the veil and became a nun in the convent at Treves, which Daddy Dagobert founded for her. She helped the Geordie Saint Willibrord in his missionary work, and gave him the land on which he founded the famous Echternach Monastery in Luxembourg. She died in 707. That's the Saint of Christmas Eve, not Santa Claus. And now, Irmina, dear girl, let us about our annual business. You carry the stockings, and I shall carry the stuff to put in them. Happy Christmas.

TIMES PAST THE TIMES

P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE POUND IN YOUR PURSE

Until Mrs Thatcher got to her feet to answer parliamentary questions for the last time before Christmas, everyone in what are conventionally called government circles who felt entitled to have an informed opinion on the future of the pound note had no doubts about the policy for it. The note was heading for oblivion and for total replacement by the new one pound coin. What is more, its life-span was not expected to be long. The bureaucrats who determine these matters know their public's ingrained conservativism and dislike of newfangledness but they also know that what the public hates today it loves, when time has worked its miracle, tomorrow. They did not suppose that much more than a year would be required to see the new pound coin as firmly accepted as the once disliked 50 pence piece now is, after which the last tattered notes could be incinerated.

Then Mrs Thatcher spoke, and not for the first time did a little policy-making on her feet. Responding to a backbench Conservative defender of the one pound note, the Prime Minister accepted that the equivalent coin was not popular. "I have reason to believe," she added cryptically, "that the one pound note will be retained", and she left it at that.

What that reason was she did not divulge, but its identity is hardly obscure. It was her own instinctive reaction to the change. Mrs Thatcher, as well as being Prime Minister, also makes a point of being (so far as time allows) a housewife with a shopping-bag. She therefore knows what it is to juggle with a purseful (or come to that, a pocketful) of assorted coins, up to a maximum of eight denominations, none of which presents any logical relationship between size and value. What is more, she is presumably aware from experience that, to the eyes of the over-forties who have come to need reading-glasses, a fistful of 5 pence, 20 pence and £1 pieces are not easily distinguishable in a poor light. Besides, though something of a radical in policy terms, Mrs Thatcher is also in practice a traditionalist: it would not, therefore, be surprising if she felt a certain affection for the old pound note for the sake of what it was before the demon inflation did its dirty work.

Inflation is, of course, the reason for the one pound coin. With the pound's loss of value, the notes are already treated as coins and loose change. They no longer repose clean and crisp in wallets, produced for occasional use; instead they are stuffed in pockets, waistcoats and purses, quickly becoming filthy and crumpled. Their old dignity is destroyed. What is more, the fact that they are treated as pseudo-coins actually makes it harder to replace them with clean new notes. When notes circulated more through the banks, the banks could send them back to the Bank of England for new ones when they became soiled. Now they go round and round as loose change between different pockets and purses, and the banks have much less chance to send them back before they become disgusting. Even so, their life is not more than about 10 months before they have to be replaced. Coins are more economical for the job and comparing the cost of producing constantly replaced notes with the cost of producing coins over the forty-year span which is the lifetime of a coin, several hundreds million pounds would be saved, at present values, by shifting entirely to pound coins.

For all these good and logical reasons, the Treasury which has responsibility in these matters had no doubt about what would happen until its First Lord took it by surprise yesterday. The sweetness of certainty pervaded the answers of Lord Glenarthur when he was questioned on the subject in the Lords on Tuesday. It was one of those occasions when the Upper House demonstrates that its claim to the virtual representation of those who did not elect it is not far short of the claim of 18th century MPs sitting for rotten boroughs virtually to represent those who did not elect them. The Lords spoke for ordinary people, pointing to the unpopularity of the new coin, and instructing the government spokesman on its tendency to wear out pockets and purses.

He (who normally speaks for Health and Social Security as that department's under-secretary) answered with the full confidence of a junior minister who has the power of Whitehall behind him. "It is the Government's intention to withdraw the £1 note from circulation in due course once the public have had time to become accustomed to the £1 coin." He rejected the idea of a plastic £1 note as too forgeable, as did the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, Mr Ian Stewart, on a Commons adjournment motion the same night. Asked if he was sure that people wanted the new coin Lord Glenarthur remarked that "extensive consultations" had established the demand for it, adding mysteriously that his own private survey round their Lordships' House had found that it was "50-50 in favour."

Had Mr Stewart and Lord Glenarthur been able to consult the Prime Minister they would apparently have discovered that her mind had been made up on the subject for some time, even though she had not thought to mention it until yesterday. The note, it seems will be with us for the foreseeable future, which means as long as people want it. The likelihood is that it will be wanted, as an option, until the whole range of the coinage has been re-assessed. Pockets full of heavy large 10 pence pieces of low value, together with small light 20 pence pieces, and small heavy pounds makes no sense, except to those hoping that someone will make a mistake with his change. The Treasury, together with the Bank of England and the Mint (its agents for notes and coins respectively) are thinking about it, and the Prime Minister's opinion on the subject ought to be very useful to them at an early stage of their general consultations.

HOMES FOR SALE – OR RENT?

The right of sitting tenants in ordinary council houses and flats to buy their homes is a stout principle. Its application in the past three years has been a boon to hundreds of thousands of families from municipal tenure of a type which the passage of time and the growth of incomes had rendered obsolete. The principle, however, is still observed only in the breach by sundry Labour-controlled city councils which – difficult as their housing is to make attractive for sale – have done everything short of law-breaking to discourage tenants: in debates on the Housing and Building Control Bill this week Mr Gow made a welcome promise to keep up the pressure on local authorities for which collective provision is the highest good.

Yet the right to buy is not, as the government appears to think, a universal one, to be compromised neither by fiscal common sense nor the state's duty to deal justly between social groups and generations. A right to buy need not encompass a right to extremely generous discounts – gifts of public money. The newly-tabled clauses to the Housing Bill offering a cash hand-out to the tenants of charitable housing associations will need very careful examination in the House of Lords, whose members have shown themselves to have a keen eye for fairness: the government rightly wants to help this particular group of tenants but is a reduction in the money for housing associations the way?

The government's enthusiasm has now led it to apply the right to buy to the many council properties occupied by the elderly or disabled which are neither "ordinary" dwellings nor can be described as purpose-built. They may be bungalows which are easy of access by people who cannot manage stairs; flats where ramps have been built or those with bathrooms converted for the use of the infirm. The 1980 Housing Act left the status of such dwellings unclear and Mr Gow is in no doubt right to condemn those councils which have jury-rigged an intercom system between flats occupied by elderly people then passed them off as specialized accommodation in a bid to escape the right to buy. But there remains doubt over whether the government has thought through the consequences of declaring that accommodation for the elderly belongs to the general stock.

One consequence must surely be a reluctance on the part of councils to continue what in many areas has been good work in building imaginative units useful for elderly occupants but not to be classified as "sheltered" (that is, where a warden is resident) and so exempt from purchase. Another could be the loss of dwellings containing specialized equipment if, as Mr Gow said he intended, elderly tenants buy and are succeeded by able-bodied inheritors; for councils then to purchase these dwellings would involve a substantial loss of public money and an unwarranted capital gift to undeserving beneficiaries of the tenants' estate.

The Housing and Building Control Bill has not had a happy provenance. Before the election the House of Lords threw out a key clause on the right of tenants of charitable housing associations; since then, the government has slipped in important exchanges at obscure stages. Now it goes to the Lords again and again it deserves a thorough examination. The duties and responsibilities of local authorities to provide housing for the elderly are of long standing; it is a role in which Mr Gow himself has encouraged them. There are strong reasons of public finance and social need for the Lords to consider very carefully this week's amendments extending an otherwise sound principle to a special and vulnerable group.

Called to account

From Mr Azim Husain

Sir, I write as a former Deputy Secretary-General who served the Commonwealth Secretariat for over seven years under two Secretaries-General until 1978. I read your editorial "Called to account" of December 2 with much concern because it is so obviously based on lack of information or understanding of the rules and procedures which govern the working of the secretariat.

There is a full measure of accountability. The secretariat is under constant scrutiny by the finance committee, consisting of all the 39 Commonwealth High Commissioners in London and a representative of the British Government, who approve the annual budget and also conduct a half-yearly review, after an eleven-member finance sub-committee has examined every aspect of expenditure in minute detail.

In addition, there is a wider ranging review by senior officials of the Commonwealth every two years, triennial reviews of salaries and allowances, and special reviews of the secretariat's objectives and priorities – there being two such in 1982, one of management structure and establishment, and another of classification, which have been progressively implemented in 1983. It is well recognized in the Commonwealth that its secretariat is cost effective.

It is equally wrong to say that "its senior appointments smack of an old boy network", or owe little to competitive selection procedures. The two seniormost posts, like that of the Secretary-General, are elective; the rest are within the discretion of the Secretary-General, but he acts in accordance with general principles laid down in the agreed memorandum of 1965 by Heads of Commonwealth governments.

The most important principle is equitable geographical distribution. The vacancies in diplomatic positions are circulated to Commonwealth governments, and the semi-diplomatic and senior secretariat positions are intimated to High Commissions. Since Commonwealth governments have plenty of officials seeking experience and service in an international secretariat, there is keen competition for posts, and the Secretary-General cannot ignore consideration of such requests coming from Commonwealth governments.

It is, therefore, both inaccurate and unfair to write of "judicious patronage in senior appointments". More generally, such authority as has been delegated by Commonwealth governments to the Commonwealth Secretary-General in the matter of appointments is no more than has been delegated to the United Nations Secretary-General and the directors-general of the specialized agencies.

All this is quite easily ascertainable. One wonders why you chose to ignore it in so vigorous an attack on the secretariat two days after the successful Commonwealth meeting in New Delhi and the unanimous decision of Commonwealth leaders to invite the Secretary-General to serve a further term.

Yours faithfully,
AZIM HUSAIN,
14 Lytton Close, N2.

Oxford admissions

From Dr D. C. Potts

Sir, The Headmistress of Harrogate Grammar School (December 9) is only the latest in a line of distinguished heads whose letters to you show a total misapprehension of Oxford's new admissions policy, inasmuch as they assume that there will no longer be any place for seventh-term candidates.

The university's Admissions Office has made it quite clear that it is not seventh-term entry which is being abolished, but the seventh-term written examination. In its place, from December, 1985, onwards, seventh-term candidates will be asked to show their paces orally in a scrutiny of their abilities which will inevitable be more probing academically than the present interview which complements written papers.

There is no reason why Mrs Dance's dedicated staff should not prepare their pupils for this just as effectively as they have been doing for the written examination, and every reason, given the increasing importance in the modern world of verbal communication skills, for them to regard it as a challenge well worth meeting.

Yours faithfully,
D. C. POTTS,
Keble College, Oxford.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fear of restriction on video

From the Editor of the Common Market Law Reports

Sir, The present Government has, rightly and successfully, been encouraging this country to embrace new information technology. And yet it does not seem to be aware of the harm that will be caused to that development by two Bills at present before Parliament.

The Data Privacy Bill requires virtually all computerized databases to be registered and supervised: the exceptions are opposed by left-wing reformists. The Video Recordings Bill requires virtually all videotapes and videodisos to be registered and censored: the exceptions are opposed by right-wing reformists.

If these two Bills pass into law the whole range of electronic publishing and information services will be subjected to control by state organs in a manner not seen in this country since the Tudor licensing of the printing press.

As usual, the restrictions are introduced to meet perfectly valid fears, but in both cases the remedy is much broader and more dangerous to our liberties than is necessary, the video censorship Bill in particular giving vast unfettered powers to the Government which could easily be misused in the future: videos of *The Day After*, for instance, would be subject to pre-censorship.

The procedures and associated costs involved in complying with these new laws will bear particularly heavily on small businesses with their scant resources available to cope with such requirements. Video sales have been seen by many as a means of freeing us from the present restrictive patterns of film distribution, but the Bill will give added strength to the traditional film industry methods. In particular, the supply of cultural films and small quantity imports will be made very difficult.

The two Bills merge together in the new area of videopublishing on laser discs and computer tapes. There are already signs that Standing Committee C may require interactive computer material to be subjected to video censorship. Video encyclopaedias and videojournalism are unlikely to escape scot-free, in spite of the "information, education or instruction" clause.

This is not a plea for video nasties or invasions of privacy. It is, however, an urgent warning to beware of the consequences of what, with the best of motives, we are now embarked upon.

Yours faithfully,
NEVILLE MARCH HUNNINGS,
Editor,
Common Market Law Reports,
European Law Centre Limited,
4 Bloomsbury Square, WC1.
December 17.

Jobs in Gibraltar

From Mr Michael J. Burnett

Sir, There could hardly have been a more inappropriately titled leader than that of December 13 headed "Gift horse on the Rock".

Firstly, Gibraltar is entering the ship repairing market at a time when virtually no ship repair yards, including those of British Shipbuilders, are profitable. Neighbouring regional shipyards at Cadiz, Huelva and Lisbon are heavily subsidised, have lower unit labour costs, and possess the same benefits of location which you ascribe to Gibraltar.

Secondly, the considerable overcapacity in world merchant fleets has led to many governments (and the EEC Commission) financing the scrapping of old ships and the rebuilding of new ships of more appropriate capacity, thus reducing the potential repair market.

Thirdly, your leader ignores the possibility of the Spanish government applying clandestine commercial pressure to shipping lines not to use Gibraltar as a means of pursuing their territorial claim to the Rock.

Within such a short period of transition the commercially managed shipyard in Gibraltar has very little chance of becoming profitable and thus of absorbing those currently employed in the dockyard (14 per cent of the total labour force) let alone of mopping up, as you suggest, unemployed construction workers.

Without employment in the dockyard the retail sector will be further squeezed in addition to the estimated loss of some £8m per year of expenditure (11 per cent of GNP) arising from the discrimination practised by the Spanish authorities in their restricted opening of the land frontier.

Your leader has laid the ground for any failure of the commercialised yard to be attributed to trade union inflexibility, or the lack of determination to succeed of the Gibraltarians as a whole. With the continued economic restrictions from Spain, perhaps the dockyard proposals would be better described as a Trojan horse.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL J. BURNETT,
Members' Room,
The Town Hall,
Wandsworth High Street, SW18.

Too chilling

From Sir Peter Vanneck, MEP for Cleveland (Conservative)

Sir, Your letters headline on Friday, "Chilling prospect of a nuclear winter" (December 16), is too unilaterally depressing. Thanks to the expanding use of nuclear power, all Europe, at any rate, can confidently switch on light and heat from cheap non-pollutant electricity sources to counter winter's dark and cold.

We should count our blessings as well as our worries.

Yours faithfully,
PETER VANNECK,
Centre Européen,
Plateau du Kirchberg,
Boîte postale 1601,
Luxembourg.
December 17.

Too high a price for the job in hand?

From the Director of the Low Pay Unit

Sir, You argue (leading article, December 20) that wages councils, which set legal minimum rates of pay for nearly three million of the lowest paid and largely non-unionised workers, "tend to price young people out of jobs" and should be abolished.

Before following your counsel, ministers would be wise to ask themselves why it is, therefore, that youth unemployment has risen most sharply since the mid-1970s, a period in which the earnings of young people relative to adults have fallen. They should also examine the success of the Young Workers Scheme (YWS), which must surely be the litmus test of the wage-cutting strategy for job creation.

The scheme is designed explicitly to cut the wages of young people: employers receive a subsidy of £15 a week for each young person they employ at wages of less than £42 a week. There is no requirement to provide training or even demonstrate that they have taken on new youngsters. The only condition is that they pay low wages.

YWS has been undeniably successful in cutting young people's wages. Indeed, in some cases employers are receiving a subsidy because they are paying wages below wages council legal minimum rates. But how successful has the scheme been in creating new jobs?

Last week the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee reported that 77 per cent of the jobs subsidised under YWS would have existed anyway and that the few new jobs created cost the Exchequer £5,355 each. Most employers simply cut the wages of young people they already employ, or replace older workers with youngsters. By the test of the Young Workers Scheme the wage-cutting strategy has been a dismal failure in creating new jobs.

Nor does the recent research paper produced by the Department of Employment, from which your editorial seeks to draw support, provide convincing evidence in favour of job creation through lower wages. The report suggests that a 10 per cent cut in youth pay would result in 70,000 to 100,000 jobs for young people. Yet four fifths of these jobs would be created at the expense of adult workers and the researchers admit that even these results "are extremely tenuous and should only be used as a possible indication of the factors at work."

There is therefore little evidence to support your assertion that the wages councils have priced young people – or for that matter anyone else – out of work. Indeed, the abolition of the councils could lead to a competitive spiral of wage undercutting in which firms and jobs were lost, not created.

Firms who compete on the basis of efficiency, design and the quality of product would find themselves undermined by those less efficient who are prepared to compete on the basis of cheap labour. By maintaining fair competition between employers wages councils provide a measure of stability which allows firms to plan ahead and to invest in training or improved techniques, resulting in greater productivity.

Thus Churchill, who established the minimum wage system in 1909, did so for the reason that "good conditions make for industrial efficiency and increase rather than decrease competitive power." That is why many employers, as well as trade unions, will oppose your proposal to abolish the wages councils. In their industries, minimum wages are not a matter of restrictive practice, but a basis of good employment practice.

Yours sincerely,
CHRIS POND, Director,
Low Pay Unit,
9 Poland Street, W1.
December 20.

A journalist's 'duty'

From Sir Alec Atkinson

Sir, On December 17 you tell us that rather than disclose the source of a confidential report it is "usually the duty of a journalist ... to say nothing and take the consequences, which may in the last resort include imprisonment for contempt".

On the other hand, on December 14, in connexion with the NGA dispute, you welcomed a statement by Mr Kinnock that "he did not condone breaches of the law". Wherein lies the difference?

Yours faithfully,
ALEC ATKINSON,
Bleak House,
The Drive,
Belmont,
Sutton, Surrey.

From Professor G. R. Dunstan

Sir, You write in your leading article of December 17, on the printing by *The Guardian* of a "leaked" secret memorandum, that had it fallen into your hands you "would have used the information therein." Would you, indeed?

The scientific community in Britain lives under the discipline of editors who will not publish in reputable journals the results of research which involved unethical procedures.

Should not a reputable newspaper decline to publish a document obtained by the betrayal of a position of trust? I am casuist enough to recognize that there might be circumstances in which such collusion could be justified.

You go on in your leader to allude to the winks and nods by means of which "the press thrives on notional breaches of trust by its informants". But before we slide too far, is it not time to re-examine the principle?

Yours faithfully,
G. R. DUNSTAN,
9 Maryfield Avenue,
Pennsylvania,
Exeter,
Devon.
December 18.

House Buyers Bill

From Professor D. G. Barnsley

Sir, Anyone reading the House Buyers Bill will immediately notice one glaring omission. Nowhere is there any requirement that a "licensed conveyancer" needs to have any relevant legal training or even a rudimentary understanding of land law, contract or conveyancing principles.

There is a real danger that the public will assume that the issue of a licence implies a minimum standard of competence. This will not be so. It is difficult to see how the Consumers' Association can actively support the passing of legislation which will facilitate the undertaking of legal work for gain by persons having no legal knowledge or skill.

This desire to foist untrained conveyancers on the general public stands in stark contrast to their recent warnings to householders about the dangers of employing inexperienced plumbers (see the September 1983, issue of *Which?*

Will the untrained, albeit licensed, conveyancer know how to draft the contract for sale so as to discharge the vendor's legal duty of disclosure? Will he appreciate the purport of the standard form conditions of sale employed in conveyancing transactions? Will the purchasers' adviser understand the underlying significance of the declaration in the widely used Land Registry Form 19(JP) that the survivor of joint transferees "can/cannot give a valid receipt for capital money . . ."?

Will he be aware of fiscal or other considerations that may in a particular case render it desirable to create a beneficial tenancy in common, so deleting the word "can" from the declaration? And what if one party fails to complete on the agreed date? Serving a notice to complete can be a tricky business, as solicitors have sometimes discovered.

These are only some aspects of a typical transfer that the "licensed conveyancer" will encounter.

That the solicitors' monopoly in routine conveyancing matters can no longer be justified is certainly debatable. To throw open registered conveyancing to any untrained and inexperienced person is quite indefensible.

Yours faithfully,
D. G. BARNSLEY,
Faculty of Law,
The University,
Leicester.
December 14

Mosley and Germany

From Mr James Ennis

Sir, In your report (December 13) of the interrogation of Sir Oswald Mosley on July 2, 1940, he is reported as saying: "I do not believe among my own supporters there are any at all who would even sympathize with Germany in a struggle against this country".

This contention is simply not true. Within an hour of the declaration of war the crew of a German freighter, berthed in West India Docks, were marched by an escort of the Metropolitan Police and the 2nd Battalion of the London Scottish, to Thames Police Court, in Arbook Square, from where they were later transferred to internment. On the way to the court they passed through Salmon Lane, a notorious fascist area with a thriving BUF shop.

The local residents cheered them and encouraged them enthusiastically as if they were a victorious football team. I saw and heard the entire incident.

I am also credibly informed (although I was not present on the occasion) that, when Winston Churchill visited Bethnal Green after an air raid, he was loudly booed in Green Street, another notorious fascist area, in which the local BUF headquarters had earlier been situated.

The above two incidents, to my knowledge, were not representative of the East End of London as a whole, but they are enough to refute Mosley's contention

Yours faithfully,
JAMES ENNIS,
Caledonian Club,
9 Halkin Street, SW1.

Stepping out in style

From Mr Stephen Drake-Jones

Sir, With the Royal Green Jackets retracing Sir John Moore's retreat to La Coruña this Christmas (report, December 16) they may be confident of a warm reception from the villages along the route.

After many years' research while living in Madrid I followed the very same retreat. The town of Benavente had three historical structures of some importance prior to the Peninsular War: the Duquesa of Osuna's Palace, the monastery and the Roman bridge over the River Esla. The bridge was blown by Captain Boothby, of the Royal Engineers, on Christmas Day and both the palace and monastery were taken apart by elements of Moore's regiments.

The official history, supported by the mayor, priest and local historians, blame the French. The convent of Santa Margarita in Astorga suffered at the hands of the British. In 1981 the nuns told me how the French came and destroyed it.

From Cacabelos, Villafranca and through every village to La Coruña the local Spaniards blame the French for all the atrocities committed by the British.

The Royal Green Jackets have nothing to fear; history has been more than kind and Sir John may rest in peace.

Yours sincerely,
S. DRAKE-JONES, Chairman,
The Wellington Society,
Portina Lodge,
19a Green Lane,
Acomb, York.
December 15.

Aid for the small businessman

From Lord Wilson of Rievaulx

Sir, Your note on page 21 of *The Times* for December 16 ("Why small businesses don't grow into big businesses") is timely and much needed. The Small Business Research Trust is clearly doing valuable work.

At the political and governmental level there remains one important proposal of the Committee to Review the Functioning of the Financial Institutions (Cmnd 7937 of June, 1980) on which so far no action has been taken.

Lloyd George, it will be recalled, at the time of his controversial "People's Budget" of 1909, established Cosira – the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas.

Our review committee proposed that a similar council to assist small industries in urban areas (Cosurba) be established, and this was formally proposed in the Commons debate on the report.

A Conservative MP with City experience in his youth, followed by a period working in financial institutions in New York, had won a place in the Friday ballot and took the City inquiry report as his subject. I followed him with an account of our proposals. Unfortunately there has been no Government action aimed at endorsing our recommendations.

Many of our biggest firms began as small enterprises – for example Unilever, which began with the brothers boiling up soup in their mother's kitchen.

Today, with well over four millions unemployed, if we include those without jobs who retired early with their pension fund entitlements, and two if not three generations of school-leavers subsisting – for a time – on Government work schemes, the case for giving effect to Cosurba is stronger than ever, and the Government should now take action to make the committee's proposal a reality.

Yours etc,
WILSON OF RIEVAULX,
House of Lords.

Preserving buildings

From Mr Clive Aslet

Sir, Sir John Summerson (article December 17) is puzzled by arguments for preserving buildings which do not depend on purely architectural merit. But such arguments have a long pedigree and were advanced with eloquence by Vanbrugh in his memorandum on the preservation of Woodstock Manor, dated June 11, 1709.

Buildings of distant times, wrote the architect of Blenheim, "... move more lively and pleasing Reflections (than History without their aid can do) on the Persons who have inhabited them; on the remarkable things which have been transacted in them, or the extraordinary occasions of erecting them."

By contrast, the position of the architectural historian discriminating about excellence of design is comparatively modern. There is surely every reason why buildings which people have come to know and love over the years, and which lend a sense of stability and permanence to their neighbourhood, should be preserved, even when experts disagree on whether they are masterpieces on the highest intellectual plane.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE ASLET, Honorary Secretary,
The Thirties Society,
3 Park Square West, NW1.

Rail archive disposal

From Mr Gerry Burt

Sir, In answer to Dr P. W. Lewis (December 17), the Railway Board's policy is to offer all historical records to the Public Record Office, where the bulk of this material is now kept, or to the National Railway Museum. Dr Lewis is entirely wrong therefore in implying that the original Brunel drawings will be disposed of "in a cavalier fashion".

Whether or not the Public Record Office need the assistance of a working party in reaching a decision on the acceptance of specific records must be for them to judge.

In dealing with the national railway archives, I can assure you that the Railways Board acts in a responsible manner, tempered only by the constraints imposed by shortage of money and the need to reduce rather than add to its staff numbers.

Yours sincerely,
GERRY BURT,
Chief Secretary,
British Railways Board,
Euston Square,
PO Box 100, NW1.
December 21.

Lines of beauty

From Mr Jeremy Montagu

Sir, A recent letter (December 9) advocated the planting of evenly spaced avenues of trees along motorways. We should remember that it was such an avenue that cost us the life of the greatest horn player of our time, Dennis Brain.

The regular and inexorable "ft, ft, ft" as one drives through such an avenue has a powerful hypnotic effect, especially when one is tired from a day's work and a long journey. There is enough mayhem on our motorways already without introducing new hazards.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
JEREMY MONTAGU,
171 Iffley Road, Oxford.

Slim difference

From Lord O'Neill of the Maine

Sir, If the Americans are happy with a paper dollar, worth less than our pound, why should we be unhappy with our pound note?

Yours faithfully,
O'NEILL OF THE MAINE,
House of Lords,
December 21.

COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 22: The Reverend Professor Owen Chadwick had the honour of being received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Member of the Order of Merit.

Sir Sidney Nolan had the honour of being received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Member of the Order of Merit.

Marshal of the Royal Air Force the Lord Cameron of Balhousie had the honour of being received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Knight of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle.

Mr Arthur Schmidt wishes all his friends a merry Christmas, as he will not be sending any Christmas cards.

The Lebanese Maronite Community in London announces the celebration of a Christmas Mass by Father Antoine Sleiman on December 25, 1983 at 11am at St Edward's Convent Chapel, 11 Harewood Avenue, London NW1 (nearest Tube station, Marylebone). Everyone is welcome to attend.

Forthcoming marriages

Captain R. G. Carr, RAMC and Dr J. E. Baldwin
The engagement is announced between Robin, eldest son of Mr and Mrs R. H. M. Carr, of Great Amwell, Hertfordshire, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. L. E. Baldwin, of Chandlers Ford, Hampshire.

Mr N. P. Cunis and Miss S. J. Adshead
The engagement is announced between Nigel Peter, only son of Mr and Mrs J. S. Cunis, of Sanderstead, Surrey, and Sarah Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J. D. Adshead, of Bromley, Kent, and Wickwar, Gloucestershire.

Mr M. St J. Day and Miss J. G. Dickson
The engagement is announced between Mark, eldest son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs M. G. Day, of Pudsey, Yorkshire, and Janette, elder daughter of Captain and Mrs D. Dickson, of Jordanhill, Glasgow.

Mr P. D. Gladwell and Miss T. J. Woodward
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Gladwell, of Lower Upham, Southampton, and Tracy, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Morris, of Haddington, East Lothian.

Mr A. M. Guite and Deaconess M. A. Hutchison
The engagement is announced between Ayodeji Malcolm, son of Professor and Mrs Harold Guite, of Hamilton, Ontario, and Margaret Ann, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Hutchison, of Richmond, Surrey.

Mr M. J. H. Littlejohn and Miss I. A. Paschetta
The engagement is announced between Mark Littlejohn, of Highgate, London, and Isabelle Paschetta, of Nice, France.

Mr P. T. Mallary and Miss F. M. G. Neville-Rolfe
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of the Rev R. and Mrs De Witt Mallary, of New York City, and Frances, daughter of Mr and Mrs Edmund Neville-Rolfe, of Tisbury, Wiltshire.

Mr E. J. Milton and Miss W. E. Feather
The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr and Mrs J. Milton, of Ringwood, Hampshire, and Willow, daughter of Mr and Mrs P. C. Feather, of Prestwold, Leicestershire.

Mr B. D. Ross and Miss V. Ovenden
The marriage has been arranged between Barnaby David, son of Mr and Mrs Mark Ross, of The Monk's Barn, Sherborne, and Virginia, daughter of the Rev Nigel and Mrs Ovenden, of Compton Rectory, Winchester.

Mr A. D. Simon and Miss T. M. Stopford
The engagement is announced between Anton, second son of Mr A. G. Simon, of Portsmouth, Hampshire, and Mrs M. M. Simon, of Newton Kyme, Yorkshire, and Tess, youngest daughter of Major and Mrs M. R. H. Stopford, of Fulham, London.

Mr S.A. Skillman and Miss H. C. Jameson
The engagement is announced between Samuel Skillman, of Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, and Helen Jameson, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.

Mr D. F. Venn and Miss M. F. Fikret
The engagement is announced between Duncan Venn, Royal Anglican Regiment, eldest son of Group Captain and Mrs M. G. P. Venn, of RAF (H), Ely, and Filiz, elder daughter of the late Mr H. Fikret, of Cyprus, and Mrs E. Fikret.

Mr. O. Vetter and Miss C. R. C. Wood
The engagement is announced between Olivier, elder son of Professor J. P. Vetter, of Montreal, and Mme M. Vetter, and Kate, daughter of Mr R. C. Wood and Mrs P. M. Wood, of Guernsey.

Captain P. J. Ward, RAMC, and Miss K. M. Turner
The engagement is announced between Phillip, youngest son of Dr and Mrs F. H. Ward, of Havant, Hampshire, and Kate, younger daughter of Mr D. J. Turner, of Hampstead, and Mrs S. W. Turner, of Welwyn, Hertfordshire.

Mr B. Zeeve and Miss C. Chamberlain
The engagement is announced between Benjamin, son of Mr and Mrs R. Zeeve, of Tel Aviv, Israel, and Clare, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Arthur Chamberlain, of Spring Cottage, 62 Wellington Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Marriages

Mr G. E. Goodhew and Mrs S. E. T. Holmes
The marriage of Mr Gordon Goodhew and Mrs Susan Holmes took place on Wednesday, December 14, 1983.

Mr C. E. Graves and Mrs B. M. Hunter Beattie
The marriage has taken place quietly in Ipswich between Mr Charles Edward Graves, of Terling, Essex, and Mrs Belissa Mary Hunter Beattie (neé Stanley), of East Bergholt, Suffolk.

Birthdays today

Lord Bancroft, 61; Mrs C. Bicknell, 64; Mr Archibald Black, 76; Lord Blake, 67; Vice-Admiral Sir Stephen Carlill, 81; Professor Sir Theodore Crawford, 72; Mr Maurice Denham, 74; Mr Richard Findlater, 62; Mr Christopher Lawrence, 47; Brigadier Sir Geoffrey Macnab, 84; Miss J. M. Quennell, 60; Herr Helmut Schmidt, 65; Mrs William Temple, 93; Mr Rayner Unwin, 58.

Memorial service

Mr A. N. Steel
A memorial service for Mr Anthony Steel was held on Wednesday at the Holy Trinity, Bromptom. The Rev Sandy Millar officiated. Mr Timothy Steel (son) read the lesson and Sir Nicholas Goodison (Chairman of the Stock Exchange) gave an address.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include: Group Captain V. B. Howells to be Aide-de-Camp to the Queen. He succeeds Group Captain M. J. C. W. Dicken.

Group Captain D. Cousins to be Aide-de-Camp to the Queen, in succession to Group Captain A. A. G. Woodford.

Dr W. A. Holmes-Walker, to be Secretary General of the Common Market Brewers' Association in Brussels.

Mrs D. J. Main, chairman of Wiltshire education committee, to be a member of the School Curriculum Development Committee.

Church news

The Rev A B Morton to be Vicar of Melling with Tatham, diocese of Blackburn.

The Rev M W Searle, Vicar of St Oswald's, Bedminster Down, diocese of Bristol, to be Vicar of Christ the Servant, Stockwood, same diocese.

The Rev W Shergold, Rector of Tunstall and parish priest of Rodmersham, diocese of Canterbury, to be team Vicar of All Saints Poplar, diocese of London.

The Rev W H Thomson-Glover, Vicar of Sherston Magna with Easton Grey and Luckington with Alderton, diocese of Bristol, to be also priest-in-charge of Foxley with Bremilham, same diocese.

The Rev J Walker, curate in charge of Barnby Moor with Fangfoss, and curate-in-charge of Allethorpe, diocese of York, to be also team Vicar in the newly formed Pocklington team ministry, same diocese.

The Rev J Woodhouse, Vicar of Pocklington with Yapham-cum-Meltonby and Owsthorpe and Kilnwick Percy, and curate-in-charge of Millington and Great Givendale, diocese of York, to be also team Rector of the newly formed Pocklington team ministry, same diocese.

Retirements and resignations

The Rev L P Clare, vicar of Kirkbymoorside with Gillamoor, Farndale and Bransdale, diocese of York, to retire on February 4.

The Rev D A Munro, Rector of Kilmington, diocese of Bath and Wells, to resign.

The Rev F E Wankling, Rector of Abbas and Temple Combe with Horsington, diocese of Bath and Wells, to retire.

Other appointments

Deaconess D Evans, parish worker, diocese of Southwell, to be minister in the Much Wenlock team ministry with pastoral care of Kenley, Hughley with Church Preen, diocese of Hereford.

Scottish Episcopal Church

Appointments
The Rev C C Knight, Chaplain of St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh to be Rector of Lighthorne, Vicar of Chesterton and Vicar of Moreton Morrell and Newbold Pacey.

The Rev A M Maclean, Rector of Holy Trinity, Dunoon to be Examining Chaplain to the Bishop of Argyll and The Isles.

Wrens' church

St Mary-le-Strand, London, has become the official church of the Women's Royal Naval Service, the Women's Royal Naval Reserve and the Association of Wrens.

Oxford dons claim lunar eclipse clue fixes date of crucifixion

Two Oxford dons claim to have solved the debate over the date of Christ's crucifixion.

Colin Humphrey and Graeme Waddington, of the Department of Metallurgy and Science of Materials, calculate the date to be April 3, AD33.

They base their research on a hitherto unnoticed clue about a "blood-red moon" – a lunar eclipse.

Their article, published in the weekly journal *Nature*, explains that the only certainty about the date of the crucifixion is that it occurred during the 10 years Pontius Pilate was procurator of Judaea – AD26-36.

There are advocates for virtually every year during this period, while the actual day of execution is also uncertain since there appears to be a difference of one day between the date given by the gospel of John and that of the Synoptics – Matthew, Mark and Luke.

But all four gospels agree that Christ died a few hours before the beginning of the Jewish Sabbath, nightfall on Friday, and – within a day – that it was the time of the Passover, the annual Jewish feast held at the time of a full moon.

The two scholars reconstructed the Jewish calendar of the first century AD, improving on earlier versions.

They computed new astrophysical data which cut the number of possible dates to five.

Those were reduced to two by the use of evidence from the Bible – April 7, AD30, and April 3, AD33.

Humphreys and Waddington then turned to reports that the Moon appeared like blood on the evening of Christ's crucifixion.

They cite medieval and biblical annals to explain that such a phrase was commonly used to describe a lunar eclipse.

They point out that during a lunar eclipse the moon turns red because although it is in the Earth's shadow, sunlight still reaches it by refraction in the Earth's atmosphere and having traversed a long path through the atmosphere the blue end of the spectrum is removed.

"It is, therefore, surprising that the link between the crucifixion and a lunar eclipse does not appear to have been made before."

They say they used the "most comprehensive data available" in the light of Babylonian records and long-term changes in the Earth's rate of rotation.

They discovered there was only one lunar eclipse at Passover time visible from Jerusalem – on Friday, April 3, AD33.

There were 11 other lunar eclipses during the 10-year period but not one took place both on a Friday and at the Passover, they say.

The experts explain it was well-known that some lunar eclipses turned the shadowed area of the Moon blood red and the clear part to a yellow-orange colour.

"The lunar eclipse on the same night as the crucifixion would have been interpreted by many as a supernatural sign," Humphreys and Waddington say.

"It may well have been an important factor influencing the overnight change of mind of the Jews and Pilate towards the body of Jesus, leading to the placing of a military guard on the tomb."

Facelift for a queen: Mr Colin Hill, a stonemason, preparing to restore the head of Queen Eleanor, the wife of Edward I, which forms part of the Eleanor Cross at Hardingstone, near Northampton. Only two other original crosses marking the resting places of the queen's funeral cortege travelling from Harby, Nottinghamshire, to London in 1290 survive. They are at Geddington, Northamptonshire, and Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire.

(Photograph: Bill Warhurst).

University news

Oxford

The following awards at Oxford colleges have been announced:

BRASENOSE COLLEGE – Open scholarships: Chemistry, A Booth, Merchant Taylors' S, Northwood. Engineering, I Feltham, Maidstone G S. Engineering and economics, C Hipps, King's CS, Wimbledon. Modern languages, R Peel, Eton. Philosophy, politics, economics, Janet Skelton, Sutton HS.
Open exhibitions: Ancient and modern history, S Ball, Howard, S Gillingham. Chemistry, M Lindley-Jones, Tonbridge S. Classics, J Hutton, Monmouth S (Platnauer Exhibition). Classics and modern languages, A Miller, Chiswick Polytechnic. Geography, J Coutts, City of Lond. S, and A Willoughby, Merchant Taylors' S. Mathematics, D A Lowe, Luton VIth Form C. Modern history, C Moon, Monmouth S. Modern History and economics, E Labovitch, Bryanston S. Modern Languages, I King, Stamford S. Physics, P Allen, Prior Pursglove C, Guisborough, and D Bate, Peter Symonds's C, Winchester. Philosophy, politics, economics, Catherine Gaselline, Cheltenham Ladies' C, and C Rycroft, Malvern C. Zoology, F Hargreaves, Manchester GS.

MAGDALEN COLLEGE – Exhibitions: Classics and modern languages, Danielle A C Coleman, Notting Hill and Ealing HS. Modern languages, G W Eykyn, Radley C Law, S R G Fulford, Portsmouth GS and S E Wootton, Newcastle-u-Lyme S. Philosophy, politics and economics, B R Gosling, Calday Grange GS. Modern history, D C Edwards, St Dunstan's C, Catford, J St Clair Hardy, Bradfield C, and Dinah G L Rose, City of Lond Girls' S. Engineering science, A C-F Kam, Repton S, and J M Smith, Cranleigh S. Chemistry, S C A Masters, Radley C. Mathematics, W L Sweatman, France Hill S, Camberley.

CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE
Classics, Charles Oldham Scholar, D M J Gilbert, St Paul's S. Charles Oldham Exhibition, Gillian P Page, Maidstone Girls' GS. Hugh Oldham Scholar, D M Themistocleous, St Benedict's S, Ealing. Haigh Scholar, Nancy C Winfield, Oxford HS. Haigh Exhibition, M T Wilmore, Bradford GS.
English, Scholarship, Siobhan E Edwards, Brighton, Hove and Sussex VIth Form C. Exhibitions, A F Peters, Westminster, and S L Waters, Lawrence Sheriff GS, Rugby.
Mathematics, exhibition, W A De Ath, Colston's S, Bristol.
Medicine, scholarship, M R Wilkins, Bristol GS; exhibition, R J Pandit, Westcliff Boys' HS.
Modern history and economics, scholarship, P Harriman, Maidstone HS.
Philosophy, politics and economics, scholarship, C K Ng, Hwa Chong Jr C, Singapore; exhibitions, A R J Meads, Q Elizabeth's S, Crediton, and S Carter Wyggeston and Q Elizabeth I C, Leicester.
Physics, exhibitions, Jane S Greaves, Godolphin and Latymer S, and J J Healey, Peter Symonds' C, Winchester.

Professor Richard M. Barrer, FRS: Aberdeen honour.

Aberdeen

Honorary degrees are to be conferred in July on the following:
LLD: Mr Charles Cockburn, former consultant, opthalmology department, Aberdeen Hospitals; Mr Robin Dunn, architect; Mr Ian Fleming, chairman, Peacock Printmakers; Lady Fraser of Allander, senior trustee, Fraser of Allander Trust; Sir James Stormonth Darling, former director, National Trust for Scotland; Mr Harold M R Watt, joint deputy chairman, Aberdeen University Press; Mr Ian C Wood, businessman.
DSc: Professor Richard M Barrer, FRS, emeritus professor of physical chemistry; Mr Basil B Parrish, marine biologist.
DD: Professor Heiko O Oberman, professor of church history, Tübingen University, and leading Luther scholar.

Sheffield

Grants
UK Atomic Energy Authority: £78,000 to Professor J Swithenbank over one year for an investigation of techniques and modelling of fluidic devices for transportation metering and control of fluidics.
Ministry of Defence: £111,700 to Dr D E Radley over one year for studies of the utilization of data on BS9000 approved electronic components.
UMIST and Transport and Road Research Laboratory: £71,795 to Dr R Ashworth over two years and nine months for an investigation into image-processing techniques.
Natural Environment Research Council: £274,916 to Professor A J Willis over one year in support of the NERC unit of comparative plant ecology.
Science and Engineering Research Council: £62,142 to Dr P J Foster over two years for an investigation of combustion phenomena in the freeboard of a fluidized bed-coal combuster; £50,000 to Professor B A Bilby, Professor K J Miller and Dr D A Nethercot over three years for studies of crack shape development; £68,260 to Professor W Galbraith and Dr F H Combley over two years for studies of muon physics and vector meson photo production at cern SPS machine; £449,712 to Professor A P Anderson, Dr J S Bennett and Dr B Chambers over four years for studies of microwave and millimetre wave antennas, image diagnostics and digital image processing; £94,663 to Dr J Allison over three years for studies of the development and applications of RF sputtered amorphous semiconductor field-effect transistors and other devices; £51,767 to J B Edwards and Dr S Bennett over three years for studies of computer control of coal clearance; £89,369 to Professor N M Atherton over three years for studies of ESR and electron-nuclear multiple resonance spectroscopy; £72,980 to Professor J R Guest over three years for studies of the function and expression of the pyruvate 2-oxoglutarate dehydrogenase multienzymes complexes.
Medical Research Council: £55,141 to Professor P Banks and Dr A J G Moir over three years for chemical modification and NMR studies of the interaction of actin with muscle and non-muscle actin-binding proteins; £49,331 to Professor P M Harrison and Dr D W Rice over three years for three-dimensional structural studies on biologically important macromolecules.

Princess to visit Norway

The Princess of Wales is to visit Norway in the new year, her first trip abroad without the Prince of Wales since the funeral of Princess Grace of Monaco.

The princess has accepted an invitation for a night at the ballet with the Crown Prince and Princess of Norway. She will fly to Oslo on February 11, and is expected to return the next day. During her stay, she will attend a gala performance of *Carmen* by the London City Ballet.

The Princess will spend the night in Oslo as a guest of Crown Prince Harald and Princess Sonja of Norway, who are cousins of the Queen. She has been patron of the London City Ballet since July.

Viscount's unity effort remembered

A service is to be held at York Minster next month to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the death of the Viscount Halifax, the distinguished churchman and pioneer for unity between Anglicans and Roman Catholics.

One of the first significant contacts between the two faiths was his meetings with Cardinal Mercier, Archbishop of Malines-Brussels. The Cardinal gave a ring to Viscount Halifax, which has been incorporated in a chalice to be used at the Commemoration services on January 21 and 22 when the present Archbishop of Malines-Brussels, Monsignor Godfried Danneels, will preach.

Latest wills

£400,000 left to charity

Charities have benefited by more than £400,000 from the will of Mr Frank William George Pickford, of Heston, west London, who died in August.

Mr Pickford left estate valued at £440,689 gross, £439,589 net. After bequests totalling £22,000, including £5,000 for North Cheriton parish Church, Somerset, the residue is to be shared by Dr Barnardo's; the Children's Society; Chest, Heart and Stroke Association; Marie Curie Memorial Foundation; Spastics Society; the Artists General Benevolent Fund; the Cardio Thoracic Institute; Royal National Institute for the Blind and Save the Children Fund.

Mrs Joy Frances Colvin, of Alresford, Hampshire, who founded The Royal Navy War Libraries at a small bookshop in the Strand in 1940, and which grew into an international network, left estate valued at £106,301 net.

Miss Eileen Mary Asquith, of Wentbridge, West Yorkshire, left estate valued at £591,532 net.

Mr John Ashlin Cutforth, of Navenby, Lincolnshire, left estate valued at £538,568 net.

Joan Winifred Warren, of Wells, Somerset, left estate valued at £130,897 gross, £129,439 net. She left £1,000 to the National Trust, and the residue equally between the Cats Protection League, the PDSA and the Wood Green Animal Shelter.

Wiggins Olive Myra, of Cowfold, West Sussex, left estate valued at £129,448 net. She left most of her estate equally between the Royal Ulster Constabulary Benevolent Fund, Belfast, and the Belfast Protestant Relief Fund.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Alsop Mr Jackson, of High Coniscliffe, co Durham £514,172
Adams Mr Frederick, of Felsham, Suffolk £471,448
Bates Mrs Peggy Doreen, of Carhampton, Somerset £388,628
Ridout Mr Frederick John, of Tenterden, Kent £386,518
WrightMrs Mary Harby, of Loughborough, Leicestershire, £318,404.

OBITUARY

LORD PILKINGTON

Businessman and public figure

Lord Pilkington, who died yesterday at the age of 78, was one of the outstanding businessmen of his generation. Under his leadership, the fourth generation of his family took Pilkington Brothers Ltd into glass manufacturing on every continent, and at the same time, with their Float process, transformed the craft into a scientific operation which came to be used round the world.

Pilkington emerged as a national figure in 1953 when, still under 50, he became president of the Federation of British Industries. He became even better known as chairman of the Royal Commission on Doctors' and Dentists' Pay (1957-60) and of the Committee on Broadcasting named after him (1960-62).

The product of a devout and long-standing Congregationalist family, he combined a belief in the virtue of hard work with a strong sense of responsibility. It was these qualities which led him to use his great energies, not only in promoting the family company, but in taking on public positions.

William Henry Pilkington, known as Harry, was born at St Helens, in Lancashire, on April 19, 1905 the eldest son of Richard Austin Pilkington and his wife Hope. Educated at Rugby and Magdalene College, Cambridge, he joined the glass business in 1927, where he underwent an initial period of probation before becoming a full Board member in 1934. He was chairman of the company from 1949 to 1973.

He combined the chairmanship with the position of finance director on the executive committee. With his cousin, Douglas Phelps, who chaired this executive, Arthur Pilkington, in charge of sales, and others he led Pilkington's through a quarter of a century of growth and prosperity, and transformed it in 1970 into a public company.

This success was attributable in part to a rapid spread of motor vehicles round the world and to the high level of building activity; it was also due in part to his own remarkable dedication and energy, spread over his many and various activities.

In 1952 Pilkington carried out an investigation into the methods and costs of school building. Two years later he served on the Crichel Down enquiry. In 1957 work began in the Royal Commission on Doctors' and Dentists' Pay, which brought out a report in 1960 recommending all-round pay increases.

Soon after that Pilkington was selected to head the Committee on Broadcasting. This committee's report, published in 1962, had a considerable impact with its praise for the BBC and its sharp criticism of independent television. It recommended that the BBC should be authorized to provide the third television programme in Britain, and called for sweeping reorganization of independent television.

From 1955 to 1972 Pilkington served as a governor or the Bank of England. He was knighted in 1953 and created a life peer in 1968.

He was by nature rather shy, the product perhaps of a strict upbringing. Many people remarked upon the great change which came about after his second marriage, in 1961, to Mrs Mavis Wilding, which seemed to give him the suport he needed.

But for many years he was as active physically as he was mentally. At a time of life when others would have given up the game, he would have his colleagues playing tennis before breakfast, even when in central London. And for short distances the bicycle was his preferred mode of transport; after a City function he would often surprise the other guests by putting on his clips and cycling off into the night.

To the end he remained loyal to St Helens and the employees of Pilkington's. He was an active member of the local community, serving on the local bench and as chairman of the North-West Regional Council for Sport and Recreation. In his latter years he would write personal letters to pensioners when they reached their 80th birthday, and later milestones.

He had married in 1930 Rosamond Margaret Rowan, who died in 1953. He is survived by his second wife, and a son and a daughter.

RAYMOND MANDER

Raymond Mander, who died in London on December 19, aged 72 was an actor who became, with his actor friend, Joe Mitchenson, one of the most dedicated theatre historians.

When they met, well over 40 years ago, they recognised their interest in anything theatrical, past and present. Their assemblage of memorabilia, programmes, pictures, china, books, all that bore on the subject, grew so swiftly that soon their large houe in Venner Road, Sydenham, was crowded with the fruits of assiduous work.

Raymond Mander had an astonishing memory for dates and details; all who knew him or spoke to him on the telephone, were used to the friendly, forthright voice that would give unhesitatingly a precise answer.

With Joe Mitchenson he wrote 20 books on such matters as the present and lost theatres of London, revue, music hall, Gilbert and Sullivan opera, and much else. *The Artist and the Theatre* (1955), one of their best, was on Somerset Maugham's collection of theatre portraits, now in the foyers of the National.

Mander and Mitchenson provided research and pictures for at least 800 books and they organized many exhibitions. The Mander and Mitchenson Collection, for the last six years a charitable trust, will be moved presently to a new permanent home at Beckenham Place, Bromley.

As an actor, Raymond Mander began in Shakespeare with the Harold Neilson company on tour 50 years ago; he played in the spectacular *Henry V* directed by Lewis Casson for Ivor Novello at Drury Lane in 1938, and, with Owen Nares in *The Petrified Forest* (1942).

He was familiar as the Dragon King in *Where the Rainbow Ends* and for a time he and Joe Mitchenson managed the Grand Theatre, Croydon.

FANIA FÉNELON

Fania Fénelon, who has died in Paris at the age of 75, was a former inmate of Auschwitz who owed her survival to the fact that she played in an orchestra whose function was to divert her captors and tormentors. Many years later she chose to exorcize the horrifying ghosts of those years in the book, *The Musicians of Auschwitz* which was published in 1977.

She had been born half French, half Jewish and before the war had studied piano at the Paris Conservatoire. In 1943 she was arrested on charges of being involved in the Resistance and in 1944 was deported to Auschwitz.

The Musicians of Auschwitz tells the bizarre story of how she, along with others of musical bent, was chosen to participate in a camp orchestra whose strains accompanied the passage of fellow inmates to the gas chambers, and on one occasion performed before Himmler. It was conducted by no less an inmate than Alma Rosé the niece of Gustav Mahler.

Fania Fenélon's musical facility saved her from death and she survived to welcome the liberators of the camp in 1945. After the war she lived in East Germany where she had a successful career as a singer for some years before returning to Paris.

Her book was scripted by Arthur Miller and made into a television film, *Playing for Time*, in 1980; this became notorious – and in Israel was banned – for the choice of the PLO supporting Vanessa Redgrave in the role of Fania.

LEGH WINSER

Legh Winser who has died in Australia at the age of 99 was a former cricketer who also acted as mediator between the Australian cricket authority and the MCC when the bodyline war was at its height in 1932-33.

Winser had kept wicket for Staffordshire for two years before emigrating to Australia in 1909 and playing Sheffield Shield cricket.

At the time of the bodyline tour he was secretary to the Governor of South Australia, the latter happening to be on leave in England at the time of greatest tension between the two countries, after the ugly scenes in the Adelaide Test match. Winser was intimately concerned with the exchange of cables between the Australian Board of Control and the MCC at a period when the future of the tour – indeed the relationship between Britain and Australia seemed likely to be in jeopardy.

He was a noted amateur golfer, winning the Australian amateur title once; in later years he regularly "beat his age" at golf, on one occasion playing 18 holes in 76, at the age of 87.

Science report

Cloning and lasers herald the end of tooth decay

New York (*N.Y. Times* News Service) – Public health officials in the United States are predicting the virtual end of tooth decay among children and young adults by the end of the century because of new developments in dental technology and the fluoridation of water supplies.

This year alone advances in dental research have ranged from the identification of the gene that produces tooth enamel, and thus the potential for cloning it by genetic engineering, to the use of lasers in an experimental method of recrystallizing the mineral structure of decaying teeth.

Coupled with the wider use of fluorides and sealants, the officials say, the new technology should almost halt tooth decay for people under the age of 50 within the forseeable future.

Dr Harald Loe, director of the National Institute of Dental Research in Bethesda, Maryland, says the revolution in dental research, technology and treatment over the past decade has yielded remarkable results.

By the end of the century the loss of teeth would be rare, he believed.

Fluoridation, which was started as a research project in Michigan in 1945, came to New York State shortly afterwards and accelerated in the 1960s, has led to an enormous decrease in tooth decay in young people.

Fluoridation itself was accompanied by research into other types of dental protection, such as plastic coatings for teeth.

According to one federal survey, more than one third of Americans under 17 have no tooth decay at all today, while in the past decade tooth decay in those under 17 has been halved.

Dr Albert Russell, a dental researcher at the University of Michigan, has studied the effects of fluoridation in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the first American city deliberately to fluoridate its water. He estimates that tooth decay among young people there has been reduced by 80 per cent.

According to Dr Loe, the treatment of gum disease among the middle-aged and elderly remained a serious problem that had not been adequately researched.

However, the National Dental Institute was beginning to research the ailments of older Americans.

Among the solutions would be widespread use of a mouth rinse that would help to kil the bacteria that start gum disease. Such a procedure, widely used in Europe, is among the many that have been discussed recently at meetings of dental researchers.

This month, Dr Harold C. Slavkin, a professor of biochemistry at the University of Southern California's school of dentistry, and Mr Malcolm L. Snead, of Baylor University, reported that they had taken the initial step toward identifying genetic material that would cause yeast cells to manufacture the protein molecules for dental enamel.

The two dental researchers predicted that when the process is perfected, perhaps in five years, yeast cells would be implanted in cavities, where they would grow clined enamel crystals that would be more attractive and last longer than the metal and porcelain now used in fillings.

Services tomorrow: Christmas Eve

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: Christmas Crib and Gift Service, 2; E. 3, Walmisley in D minor, Tomorrow shall be my dancing day (Gardner). Midnight Eucharist, 11.30, Schubert in G. Right Rev E. G. Knapp Fisher.
ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: HC, 8am, 12.30; M. 10, TD, The setting for five parts (Tallis), Jub, The Second Service (Tomkins), A. A maiden most gentle (Carter); E (said), 3.15: Christmas Carol Service and Blessing of the Crib; HC, 11.30.
SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: Midnight Eucharist, 11.30, Missa Brevis in D (Mozart), A. Carols, Bishop of Southwark.
WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 11.15pm Vigil and Midnight Mass, Coronation Mass (Mozart), Hodie Christus natus est (Schutz), O Magnum Mysterium (Gabrieli).

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks: Midnight Service of HC, 11.30.
TOWER OF LONDON (public welcomed): HC, 11.30, Missa et ego Johannes (Palestrina).
ST CLEMENT DANES (R.A.F. Church) (public welcomed): Midnight Mass, 11.30, Mozart Mass in C, O magnum mysterium (Victoria). The Chaplain in Chief (R.A.F.) Assisting, The Chaplain.
CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: Midnight Eucharist of the Nativity, 11.30

ALL HALLOWS BY THE TOWER: Carol Singing by Candlelight, Blessing of the Crib and Midnight mass, 11.30.
ALL SOULS Langham Place: HC, 11.30pm, Rev M. Lawson.
CHELSEA OLD CHURCH: HC, 11.45pm.
GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street: Midnight Mass, Missa Brevis in F (Haydn).
HOLY TRINITY, Brompton: Midnight Communion, 11.30, Rev J Irvine.
ST. ALBAN'S HOLBORN: Carols, 11.40pm; HM, midnight, Messe de Minuit (Charpentier), Hodie Christus Natus est (Sweelinck). Fr Houlding.

ST BATHOLOMEW THE GREAT PRIORY (AD1123): Choral Eucharist, 11.45, Wood in the Phrygian mode, A. O magnum mysterium (Victoria), The Rector.
ST BRIDES, Fleet Street: Eucharist with Carols, Midnight, Noble in B minor.
ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: Midnight Mass with the St James's Players, 11.30, The Rector.
ST MARGARET'S, Westminster Midnight Eucharist, 11.45, Rev C Walker.
ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS: Carol Service, 6.30pm: Salvation Army Band on the steps, 9; HC, midnight service, 11.30, The Vicar (entrance by ticket).
ST MARY'S, Bourne Street: Carols followed by the Midnight Mass, 11.40, Missa Sancti Johannis de Deo (Hadyn), Hodie Christus natus est (Sweelinck), O magnum mysterium (Poulenc).
ST MARYLEBONE PARISH CHURCH: Midnight Mass, 11.30, Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn), For unto us a son is born (Handel), Rev C K Hamel Cooke.
ST MICHAEL'S, Chester Square: Midnight Communion, 11.30; Rev E C H Saunders.
ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, Knightsbridge: HC, 8.30 am; Blessing of Crib, 5; Midnight Mass, 11.30, Rev R C Russell.
ST PETER'S, Eaton Square: Blessing of Crib, 11.45 pm, Procession and Solemn Mass of Midnight, Messe du Minuit pour Noel (Charpentier), Christmas Carols and Anthems.
ST VEDAST, Foster Lane: Sung Mass, 11.30 pm, Sumsion in F, In the bleak midwinter (Darke), Canon ffrench-Beytagh.

ST COLUMBA'S (Church of Scotland), Pont Street: Candlelight Service, 11.30.
CROWN COURT CHURCH (Church of Scotland), Russell Street, Covent Garden; Watchnight Service in candlelight, 11.30.
ST ANSELM AND CECILIA, Kingsway: SM, midnight, A pastoral Mass (1862) (Maher), Quem Vidistis Pastores? (Doering).
CHURCH OF OUR LADY, St John's Wood: Midnight Mass, Caldara in C.
THE JESUIT CHURCH, Farm Street: Midnight Mass Missa Festiva (Gretchaninoff).

CENTRAL HALL, Westminster: Midnight Communion, 11.30; (Grand Entrances Hall)
WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road: Midnight Eucharist, 11.30.

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THE TIMES
FINANCE AND INDUSTRY
Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Fraser expects Lonrho to attempt the obvious

In the wake of the tragic bombing of *Harrods*, the *price* of House of Fraser shares has risen 20p to within twopence of the high for the year. Business in the stock market, as in the most famous of Fraser's *department stores*, has continued more or less as usual and the movement in the shares has caused a fresh rash of speculation about Fraser's fate. This turns, as *everyone* by now knows, on the outcome of the relentless siege of the Fraser board by Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland who, through Lonrho, directly *commands* just under 30 per cent of Fraser's equity. Mr Rowland's stated objective is to demerge Harrods from House of Fraser. So far Professor Roland Smith, the chairman, and *the majority* of Fraser directors (Lonrho has two Fraser directors, Mr Rowland and Lord Duncan-Sandys) have thwarted him.

Suggestions in the market yesterday that the beleagured majority had agreed to hiving off Harrods, and Professor Smith was giving up the struggle, were dismissed by the company as "*total and absolute garbage*". But my instinct tells me that Mr Rowland has been too quiet for too long. I understand that his offer to sponsor the Derby for £600,000 has been turned down by the Jockey Club because of a certain condition he laid down and his decision to put seasonal greetings from Lonrho in the windows of the former Bunny Club in Park Lane, now owned by Lonrho, has also caused a certain furore. But the big prize remains Harrods and if Mr Rowland does not move soon, he may not be able to *move at all*.

Time is ticking away in the Department of Trade and Industry's inquiry into the Fraser share register. This was ordered in August when Mr John Griffiths, a former attorney-general for Hongkong was appointed to discover whether heavy buying of Fraser shares, mainly from abroad, was "in concert" and, therefore in contravention of the 1981 Companies Act. Lonrho said at the time that "we have nothing to fear from this investigation."

Mr Griffiths ought to complete his work within two months at the outside. Should he, or the *Government on the* basis on his findings, decide, say, to disenfranchise certain holders of Fraser shares who might just conceivably support Mr Rowland, the muster *of Lonrho votes for demerging* Harrods, should such a resolution again be put to an extraordinary shareholders' meeting, would be heavily impaired.

Mr Rowland therefore may still be looking for an opportunity to display his strength before Mr Griffiths reports to the *Minister*. *His obvious tactic still* is to find a pretext for removing Professor Smith, and with him Mr Ernest Sharp and probably Mr George Willoughby from the Fraser board. *He needs only* a simple majority to perpetrate the deed, but a *man* of his cunning, surely should find the obvious beneath him.

Hawley goes fishing in the Midlands

The energetic Mr Michael Ashcroft, chairman of Hawley Group, has again displayed imaginative, and profitable, acumen in two new deals. Yesterday *morning he announced the acquisition of* a 29.9 per cent stake in the Midland-based brokers Fyshe, Horton, Finney & Co. (FHF). FHF satisfy Mr Ashcroft's various criteria. *It is outside London*; adminstrative costs are low; it is closely connected with the small business clients among whom Mr Ashcroft sees a promising future. (FHF was also once Howley's brokers; the *firm* is modern in outlook; it has a fully computerized operation; and it came relatively cheap.

Mr Ashcroft paid less than six figures *for an entry into a new form of financial* service business expected to grow from the restructuring taking place in the Stock Exchange. Others have paid millions. He describes *his purpose* as "gaining a position on the starting block, if, and when, we decide that the race is worth entering."

That decision seems to have been made. Hawley Group's Procroft subsidiary is a licensed dealer. It recently underwrote the Pineapple Dance Centre's rights issue, with an option to acquire 10 per cent. If *the Pine apple share price doubles in the* next two years Hawley will show a neat £400,000 net profit.

Old Lady's loss is GEC's gain

Gordon Richardson, now Lord Richardson of *Duntisbourne*, would *have* liked another spell as Governor of the Bank of England: not perhaps another full five-year term, but perhaps two or so years before making way for his successor.

Mrs Thatcher, however, preferred to make a new appointment, before the General Election, and Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton moved from the chair at *National Westminster to embrace the Old* Lady (of Threadneedle Street, that is) on July 1.

Lord Richardson is too sage and valuable a man to spend aimless days in a quiet office at the Bank of England, thoughtfully arranged on his behalf by Sir Jasper Hollom, a former deputy governor and still a member of the Court. Not *surprisingly*, *his* first post-governmental step is into that modern Greek gymnasium, the boardroom of General Electric, now presided over by Lord Carrington. *with the irrepressible* Lord Weinstock as permanently resident director of studies.

Lord Richardson's age may preclude his succeeding Lord *Carrington*, aged 64, when the former Foreign Secretary leaves to become secretary-general of Nato next June. Lord Richardson is 68 and GEC directores are expected to *retire* at 70. That said, *he would* be an admirable choice. At the Bank of England he had a justifed reputation for hard work and for expecting colleagues to work just as hard *as he did. He has a wide knowledge of the* economy, both domestical and international and the analytical and precise mind of the best lawyers his expertise in *financial affairs might come* in handy *should* Lord Weinstock and Sir Kenneth Bond want to move GEC's almost legendary cash mountains.

GEC's board has *several unusual* flavours and a catholic spread of interests. Sir Wiliam Rees-Mogg, a former editor of *The Times*, is a non-executive director and GEC is one of the few *companies in this country* to have a woman on the board, the Hon Mrs Sara Morrison. No statutory female she.

GrandMet's 34% profits rise disappoints market

By Jeremy Warner

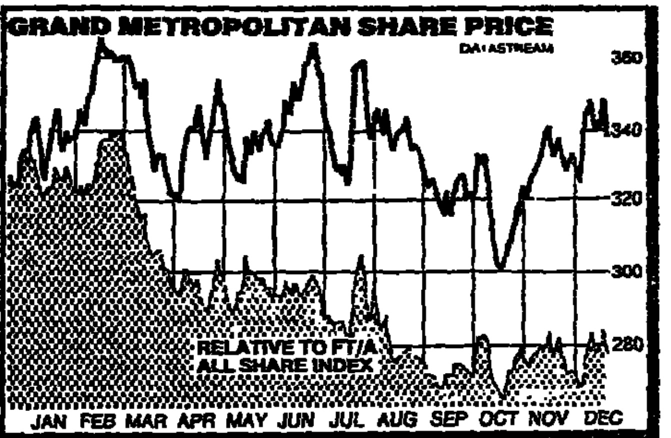
A strong *improvement* in the United States and lower interest charges helped Grand Metropolitan, *the brewing, hotels and leisure group*, to increase pertax profits by 34 per cent in the year to the end of September.

When the group reported a 52 per cent leap in half-year profits in May it gave a warning that it was unrealistic to expect growth *at this rate to* be maintained.

This, however, did not prevent analysts from floating some *airy forecasts* in recent weeks. As a result, the company's shares fell 5p to 338p yesterday.

The board is making a one-for-five scrip issue to bring *share capital more in line with* inflated group reserves. It is also increasing the final dividend by 18 *per cent* to 5.75p, thus bringing the total for the year to 9.625p, against 8.375p.

Group pretax profits rose from £220.2m to £295.2m after a £22.8m fall in the interest charge to £111.8m. Lower interest rates in both Britain and the United States and the *£125m* rights issue 18 months ago were the main factors behind the lower bank borrowing costs.



The group's strong dollar earnings, which in consumer products were as much as 31 per cent higher, were given a further boost by the currency fluctuations of the last year.

The pound's *fall against* the dollar is estimated to have added about £20m to aggregate profits.

Trading profits from consumer products in the United States rose from £64.7m to £98.4m, thanks largely to a remarkable gain in volume by the group's cigarette company, Liggett & *Myers which* has benefited from the shift away from branded to generic tobac*co products* in the United States.

Pet foods and keep-fit equip*ment, the other peripheral* businesses that Grand Met acquired in 1980 when it bought the drinks distribution company, Liggett, also had a buoyant year in the United States.

Watney Mann, the brewing subsidiary had a good second half with volume sales rising sharply during the hot summer and profits rose *from £68.5m* to £73m for the year as a whole.

In British consumer services, buoyant casino profits of more than £30m led to a rise in the division's trading profits of *£6.5m* to £73.6m. Results would have been even better but for the heavy costs taken against revenue of *reorganizing* and rationalizing betting shops, restaurants and other leisure interests.

Mr Stanley Grinstead, chairman, said that hotels made better profits in a year when the integration of the group's original portfolio of hotels into Intercontinental was completed

The wines and spirits division also consolidated its position

Trading profits in wines and spirits rose from £98.1m to *£104.5m and hotel profits were* up from £22.9m to £27.3m.

OECD lifts shares

The FT Index reached a fresh peak for the fourth day in succession yesterday, as share prices continued to forge ahead, helped by encouraging indicators and the bright view of the British economy painted in this week's report from the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development.

The 30-share index closed 4.2 points higher at 776.2

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 776.2 up 4.2
FT Gilts: 83.14 up 0.21
FT All Share: *469.84 up* 1.89
Bargains: 18,943
New York: Dow Jones Industrial average: (latest) 1253.86 down 1 12
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones *Index* 9 709.23 *down* 8.42
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 863 56 up 6.0
Amsterdam: 157 6 *down* 1.3
Sydney: AO Index 762.1
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1034.0 *up* 9.1
Brussels: General Index 135.97 up 0.74
***Paris:* CAC Index** 152.9 up 3.2
Zurich: SKA General 312.80 up 2.70

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling
$1.4275 up 50pts
Index 82.3 unchanged
DM 3.9525 up 0.0075
FrF 12.0650 up 0.0350
Yen 334 down 0.25
Dollar
Index 130.5 up 0.4
DM 2.7675 *down 0.0040*
NEW YORK LATES
Sterling $1.4275
Dollar DM 2.7675
INTERNATIONAL
ECU £0.571743
SDR £0.731613

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Discount market loans week fixed 8⅞
3 *month* interbank 9½-9⅜
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10¹⁄₁₆-10³⁄₁₆
3 month DM 5⁵⁄₁₆-6³⁄₁₆
3 month Fr F13¾-13⁹⁄₁₆
US rates
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9⁵⁄₁₆
Treasury long bond 101-101¹⁵⁄₃₂
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for *interest period* November 2 to December 6, 1983 inclusive 9.350 per cent.

UK trade back in surplus

By Peter Wilson-Smith
Banking Correspondent

Britain's trade with the rest of the world bounced back into the *black last month* as *imports* fell from October's record level.

The current account of the balance of payments was in *surplus by £317m last month*, including an estimated surplus of £210m on trade in invisibles. This compared with a £219m deficit in October and surpluses in the two previous months.

The current account has moved *erratically* throughout this year and although the figures were welcomed in Whitehall, officials remained cautious about reading too much into one month's figures.

Monthly figures can also be unreliable because they are *often* subject to big revisions. Last month the Treasury was forecasting a £500m current *account surplus for the whole of* this year, but earnings on inivisibles have been revised upwards and the current account surplus in the first 11 months of the year is now put at £1.31 billion.

Imports were expected to fall last months after the surge in October, but although the total was down from £5,594m to £5,174m, the trend is still upwards. However, the fall in imports, combined with a rise *in exports to* £5,281m – the second highest figures on record – helped to push the visible trade balacnce from a £429m deficit to a £107m surplus.

A bigger surplus on oil trade contributed to the improve*ment, but the main reason was* the much stronger balance of non-oil trade.

Imports are still at a higher *level than during* the summer, which is attributed to restocking by industry and higher spending by comsumer.

Underlying imports volume is also continuing to rise with volume up by 4 per cent in the latest three months compared with the three months to the end of August.

Exports including oil, how*ever, showed* an increase of 5 per cent by volume over the same period.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

		Current Balance	Visible Balance	Invisible Balance
1981		+6547	+3008	+3539
1982		+5378	+2119	+2359
1982	Q4	+2327	+1215	+1112
1983	Q1	+781	−163	+944
	Q2	−171	−669	+498
	Q3	+603	295	+898
	June	+315	+149	+166
	July	−19	−318	+299
	Aug	+178	−122	+300
	Sept	+444	+145	+299
	Oct	−219	−429	+210
	Nov	+317	+107	+210

Source: Department of Trade and Industry

Allianz equals BAT bid for Eagle Star

By Andrew Cornelius

West German insurer *Allianz* Versicherungs yesterday matched BAT Industries' record £934m takeover bid for Eagle Star Holdings. Britain's sixth largest insurer. The 675p per share bid from Allianz is the seventh offer since the bidding for Eagle Star began 10 weeks ago.

Allianz made its latest bid after the City Takeover Panel set a deadline of 4.30pm on *December 30 for the final* bidding in the fiercely contested takeover battle.

Eagle Star shares yesterday fell on the stock market from 729p to 712p as dealers contemplated the prospect that BAT was preparing to pull out of the bidding. BAT shares rose by 4p to 172p on the news.

Sir Denis Mountain, chairman of Eagle Star, said that although Allianz had matched BAT's offer, the *Eagle board* continues to believe strongly that BAT is a more appropriate parent for the group

However, he said that the Eagle board does not propose to recommend any revision of the *competing offers* which are *announced before* the December 30 deadline. He said the board believes that it would be *appropriate to reserve* any further advice to shareholders until the terms of such final offer are known.

BAT Industries declined to comment on the Allianz bid. The board indicated that it is considering the latest development

However BAT joined Eagle Star in discounting the stockmarket rumours that an American insurance company was about to launch a blockbuster bid for Eagle Star. Mr Philip Evans, of Morgan Grenfell, the *merchant* bank advisers *to* Allianz, refused to rule out this possibility.

He indicated that at least five per cent of Eagle Star's shares had been traded over the past week and that only a serious bidder would risk the £60m-plus necessary to complete deals of this size.

Despite the uncertainty over the ultimate intentions of Allianz, the West German group is favourite to win control of Eagle Star

Wedd to close New York office

By Michael Clark

Wedd Durlacher & Mordaunt, the biggest of London's five stockjobbing firms, has decided to close its New York office and cease trading – just a *few weeks after becoming* the object of a $15m (£10.6m) lawsuit from two of Wall Street's largest broking firms.

Last night Mr John Robertson, senior partner at Wedd, admitted that the decision had been made purely on a trading basis. "It is a commercial decision. The venture had not really worked out as anticipated," he said.

Wedd last month received several writs *from* brokers Merrill Lynch and, Lehman Bros Kuhn Leeb, alleging fraudulent dealing with regard to the collapse of the investment company C & R Pastor Securities. Wedd is contesting the claim.

Wedd said that although the New York office had ceased *trading* and both the New York Stock Exchange and Merrill Lynch had been informed, the company Wedd *Durlacher* Inc had not been wound up.

NEWS IN BRIEF

£7m call by Airship Industries

Airship Industries yesterday announced details of a £7m rights issue – *its second cash call on shareholders* in less than 10 months.

The issue is being underwritten by Bond Corporation, the company run and controlled by the flamboyant Australian entrepreneur Mr Alan Bond who recently added the Americas Cup to his list of successes.

Mr Andew Millar, the chairman of Airship, which hopes to *make the first commercially* produced ariships in Britain since the 1930s, said that *without refinancing the* company's achievements over the last eight years would be *vulnerable*. Since 1978, the company has spent more than £11m developing its product.

● **The Inland Revenue** has *published draft legislation on* the tax treatment of deep discount securities, whereby the discount *will* be treated as income accruing over the life of the stock on a compound yield basis. the *treasury* said.

● **Directors** of International Paint have agreed *terms* that will allow the company's parent group, Courtaulds, to buy out *the publicly held* 12.2 per cent minority shareholding it does not already own.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am $378.90 pm $318.90
close $377.50-378.25 (£264.75-265.25)
New York (close): $378.75
Krugerrand* (per coin):
$389-390.50 (£272.75-27325)
Sovereigns* (*new*):
$88-89 (£61.75-62.50)
*Excludes VAT

Shares lose early gains

WALL STREET

New York (AP-Dow Jones) – *Stocks slowed in early trading* yesterday, giving up the strong gains recorded at the start.

The Dow Jones industrial *average* was up about 2½ points after having been up by more than four, while the transpor*tation index* was down nearly three points.

Advances held a slim 7-to-6 *lead over* declines and trading was active.

Mr Philip B. Erlanger, chief *technical analyst* for Advest Inc, said: "I am becoming more and more bullish despite some of *the sentiment indicators*.

"There is a buying opportunity here while the market *pauses to digest* its gains. It should close higher

General Electric was up ⅜ at 58½; **General Motors** up ¼ at 74¼; **Eastman Kodak** up ¼ to 74⅜; **International Business Machines** up ¼ at 123¾; **Teledyne** down ⅜ at 163¼; and **Monsanto** up ¼ at 108¼.

Burroughs was trading at 49¾, up ⅛; **CSX** 26¼, down ⅜; **UAL** 38, unchanged; **Motorola** 132¾, up ¼; **Times-Mirror** 75⅞, down ⅛; **Gulf Oil** 42⅞, up ¼; **Sanders Associates** 49½, up ⅜; **Watkins-Johnson** 84, unchanged, and **Merck** 91¾ up ½.

● Nigeria is seeking refinancing credits of six years, with 2½ *years grace*, to enable existing arrears on short-term trade debt totalling between $3 billion and $5 *billion to* be brought up to date, the British Export Credits Guaratee Department said.

Pound rises on hopes of more stable market

BNOC to hold N Sea oil price

By David Young Energy Correspondent

North Sea oil prices are to remain unchanged at $30 a barrel on the world market, to *the relief* of other producers and the international oil trading market.

Britain's indirect influence on policy decisions by the Organization of *Petroleunm Exporting* Countries (Opec) has been confirmed byu world reaction to the decision yesterday to leave North Sea oil prices at their present levels for four months.

The decision yesterday by the British National Oil Corporation (BNOC), *the state-owned trading* company which places North Sea oil on world markets, removes considerable doubts among oil traders.

It had an immediate effect on sterling, which closed up ½ a cent against *the dollar* at $1.4275, although the official price on North Sea crude will not officially be *confirmed* at its *existing level* for another week.

The decision by BNOC to keep its present pricing policy was *made against* *cnsiderable* pressure from American companies operating in the North Sea which have seen prices on their domestic market follow the trend in the world spot *market, based in* Rotterdam.

Traders can now buy oil at more than $1 a barrel below the North Sea official price and often a $1 a barrel below the official Opec price of $29.

BNOC's decision will aid Opec in its attempt to stablize the world oil market. It will also stimulate oil demand by giving consumers a long-term price structure and help to control oil output to a *level* which can be absorbed by industrial consumers.

The Opec agreement on prices and production quotas reached in Geneva three weeks ago was then described as "*fragile*". The BNOC decision makes it more likely that Opec can keep to that agreement until its next meeting on *July 20*, in Geneva or Vienna.

Although British production is small by comparison with Opec ouput, North Sea oil competes directly on the world markets with the oil produced by the smaller countries among Opec's 13 state membership. For that reason the North Sea now influences Opec decisions.

Indonesia, an Opec member, said officially yesterday that it welcomed Britain's decision to freeze prices.

The three main operators in the North Sea, BP, Shell and Esso, have been supporting *price stability* while Texaco and Chevron have been following internal trends in the United *States and asking* for a price cut. Several independent US refining companies have been indicating to their *suppliers* that they want a price cut of up to $1.50 a barrel.

RECENT ISSUES

	Closing Price
Aspinall Holdings 10p Ord (115a)	140
BP 25p Ord (435*)	166+1
Brewmaker 1p Ord (33.25pa)	31
Cable & Wireless 50p Ord (275*) £1 paid	108+3
Dataserv Inc Com Stk $0.05	72
Federated Housing 5p Ord (54a)	50+5
French Connection GRP 5p Ord (123a)	138
High-Point services 10p Ord (137a)	138
Johnson & Jorgensen 10p Ord (85a)	88
Kenyon Securities 25p Ord (139a)	178
Logica 10p Ord (220*)	290
MME Facilities 10p Ord (40a)	40
Mebon 10p Ord (96a)	94
Moray Firth Maltings 50p Ord (195a)	227
PCT 10p Ord (150a)	154
Pericom 10p Ord (140a)	163
Protimeter 5p Ord (26.5a)	32
Synterials 10p Ord (100a)	91
Tay Homes 25p Ord (90a)	92
Tyne Tees 100p "A" NV (135a)	138

Issue price in parentheses a Unlisted Securities. * by tender.

MARKET REPORT ● by Michael Clark

Trade cheer for shares

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 12. Dealings end, Dec 29. Contango Day, Dec 30. Settlement Day, Jan 9.

A better-than-expected set of November trade figures, showing a return to the black, gave a boost to the equity market yesterday, which still shows few signs of running out of steam.

The FT Index maintained its record-breaking run, closing at its high for the day, 4.2 up at a record 776.2, with renewed bid activity and stock shortages keeping prices on the ball.

Most of the market's business had been completed by lunchtime and for the rest of the session it was left up to the cheerful survey on the economy from the OECD and overnight strength on Wall Street to keep sentiment alive.

Gilts scored encouraging gains of up to £⅝ at the longer end, cheered by the news from America, which pointed to an easing in the upward pressure on interest rates. On foreign exchange's the pound closed 50 points up against the dollar, at $1.4275.

Among blue chips, **Bowater**, the pulp and paper specialist complex, stood out with an 11p rise to a new high of 267p as the bid rumours continued to gain momentum. Close observers recken somebody is trying to build up a stake prior to a bid.

US support was also good for Glaxe, 13p higher at 725p, after recent weakness, and ICI, 12p at 660p. **P & O** Deferred also rallied after nervous selling earlier in the week on hopes the Monopolies Commission will allow the contested bid from Trafalgar House to proceed.

Profit-taking among the High Street banks made a dull picture for the sector as a whole. **Barclays** lost 5p at 489p, **Lloyds** 7p at 532.

Among the merchant banks, **Kleinwort Benson** continued to gain ground, rising 7p to 430p following the abortive dawn raid by broker L. Messel on behalf of unnamed Middle Eastern clients on Wednesday. They had been hoping to pick up about 10 per cent of the company, but in the event failed to pick up any shares at around the 395p level.

But there was profit-taking among the discount houses where rumours of a possible tripartate bid has dept prices on the move all week. **Alexanders Discount** lost 7p to 332p, **Smith S Aubyn**, 4p to 47p and **Jessel Toynbee**, 2p to 68p.

Broker de Zoete & Bevan has predicted that the recovery in profits forecast by Macarthys Pharmaceuticals is unlikely to occur and say this is now fully reflected in the group's low rating. For the present year, de Zoete is looking for pretax profits of £4.1m, against £4m last time. The shares closed unchanged at 141p.

Tricentrol's quoted offshoot, **Combined Technologies**, enjoyed a spurt of 1½p to 21p on a broker's buy recommendation, but **Polly Peck**, the biggest of Mr Asil Nadir's three publicly-quoted companies, lost a further £1¾ to £25¾ on futher reflection of the group's annual report and accounts, accompanied by proposals for a share split and placing to raise £5m

In stores, **Sears Holdings**, the Saxone to Lilley & Skinner shoe retailer, added 2p to 83p following yesterday's article in *The Times* confirming the group was looking for a quote for its shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

Share of **FII**, formerly Footwear Industries Investments, continued to scale new heights, rising 13p to 200p on hopes that sales of its new inhaler, which it is claimed can alleviate the common cold and hay fever, will be well received.

On the Unlisted Securities Market, shares of **DBE Technology Group**, the subject of a reverse takeover by what was left of Bell Electronics, started life at 120p and continued to rise throughout the day, to close at 140p.

Shares of **Bell** have been suspended since July 27, after Ferranti's decision to pay £1m for 9 per cent of Bell.

Meanwhile, **Ault & Wiborg**, the specialist inks concern, was briefly suspended, awaiting an announcement from the company. They later returned, 11p higher at 44p, following the terms of a minority bid from Sun Oil, which earlier this year was unable to agree on a price with the board of A & W.

Sir Monty Finniston, former chairman of BSC and now in the chair at **Chemical Methods**, is excited by the group's prospects. Independent trials of the group's Britgrit abrasives indicate a better performance to anything currently available on the market, he says.

Full-scale production will be starting in the first quarter of the New Year. Recently, Chemical Methods and its broker, Statham Duff Stoop, which brought the group to market earlier this year, parted company under a cloud.

Laing and Cruickshank has been appointed Chemical's new broker. The shares ended the day unchanged.

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS

1982/83 High	Low	Stock		Price	Ch'ge	Int. only Yield	Gross Red. Yield
103¾	91⅝	Exch	11¼% 1984	100¼	..	11.221	8.804
107¼	96½	Exch	14% 1984	101⅞	..	13.743	9.066
97⅞	81¼	Exch	3% 1984	97⅛	+1/16	3.089	9.282
105¼	91½	Treas	12% 1984	101⅞	+1/16	11.779	9.309
111⅞	96¾	Treas	15% 1985	105¼	..	14.280	10.066
112¼	89½	Exch Cv	12% 1985	102⅞	+1/16	11.722	9.888
94	73¾	Treas	3% 1985	94	+⅛	3.192	7.607
105½	87⅞	Treas	11½% 1985	102 9/16	+⅛	11.240	9.672
102	95½	Treas C	8¾% 1985	98 7/16	+⅛	8.888	9.747

MEDIUMS

LONGS

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

DOLLAR STOCKS

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

A—B

1982/83 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
493	253	Ash & Lacy	467	+4	26.7	5.5	8.9
291	100	Ass Book	285	..	10.4	3.6	11.9
167¼	114½	Ass Brit Food	142	..	6.8	4.8	6.3
154	65¼	Ass Dairies	148	..	3.2	2.2	21.4
80	59	Ass Fisheries	80	..	3.2	4.0	8.7
111	50¾	Ass Leisure	104	+1	5.9	5.7	11.9
418	136	Ass News	393	..	14.9	3.8	18.5

C—E

F—H

1982/83 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
252	144	Granada 'A'	188	+2	8.3	4.4	15.1
366	175	Grand Met PLC	338	-3	12.5	3.7	13.0
122	32	Grattan PLC	62				23.2
641	433	Gt Univ Stores	625	-3	20.7	3.3	13.8
636	428	Do A	620	-3	20.7	3.3	13.7
146	86	Gripperrods	136	..	6.6	4.9	6.2
173	83¾	Grosvenor Grp	162	..	7.5	4.6	9.9

I—N

1982/83 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
167	82	Milletts Leis	128	..	9.9	7.8	..
137	31	Mining Supplies	37	..	0.1	0.4	..
55	31½	Mitchell Cotts	43½	-½	5.2	11.9	9.7
56	17	Moben Grp	25	..	0.4	1.4	7.1
30	17	Modern Eng	20	..	..	..	..
183	96	Molins	121	..	11.3	9.3	5.2
147	54	Monk A.	122	..	8.6b	7.0	5.1

O—S

T—Z

1982/83 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
17¼	13½	TDK	15⅞	+⅛	9.2	0.6	26.4
182	80	TI Group	172	+2	10.7	6.2	..
186	14	TACE	140	+3	4.3	3.1	41.0
106	34	TSL Therm Synd	39	+1	..	..	7.2

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1982/83 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
91	50¾	Murray West	91	..	2.7b	3.0	..
87	45¾	Do 'B'	86	-1	..	..	..
58	40	New Darien Oil	54	..	0.4e	0.7	..
37	16	N Throg Inc 83	34	..	3.1b	9.2	..

SHIPPING

MINES

OIL

PROPERTY

PLANTATIONS

MISCELLANEOUS

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Sterling: Spot and Forward

Money Market Rates

Other Markets

Dollar Spot Rates

Euro-$ Deposits

Gold

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK

First-half profits jump to £943,000 at Smith Bros

The future of Smith Brothers, one of the two quoted stock jobbers on the stock exchange, looks secure. Certainly yesterday's interim pretax profit figures of £943,000 were well up on the £585,000 of the previous year.

But it is not current trading or the company's healthy yield that make the shares so attractive now. It is the deal struck with N M Rothschild this month which gave the bankers a 29.9 per cent stake.

As both are considered experts in their own operations of gold bullion and gold shares – both internationally desirable commodities – it is the establishment of a jointly owned international dealing subsidiary that offers Smith Brothers so much potential beyound what they are achieving now.

The new company will extend Smith's dealing base in New York and Los Angeles while fully exploiting Rothschild's operations in the Far East. Both are expected to stick closely to the wholesale side of the business. To make the most of that Smith needed capital, and lots of it.

Its own capital base of £6m looked miniscule in relation to the giants in the industry who trade in billions – as does Smith but on a much lower margin – and the weight of the Rothschild name gives weight where previously it would not have been know.

Smith already has two-thirds of its 65 dealing staff concentrating on international securities and the Rothschild deal should provide them with all the incentive necessary to really show what they can do.

The company has been gearing up financially for such moves. Rothschild are paying £6.5m for the stake and injecting another £5m for the new company that Smith is expected to match.

The next obvious expansion area for chairman Mr Anthony Lewis's team looks likely to be Australia. That country's shares are also a Smith speciality.

Not surprisingly, the company underplays its success saying that first-half trading was mixed and the second-half is satisfactory, but it is too early to make a forecast. The interim dividend is the same as last year, a penny. Not very generous, but the shares, at 77p, yield a good 5.6 per cent and offer a great deal of promise.



Anthony Lewis: looks set for expansion in Australia

Reardon Smith Line

The Reardon Smith Line, which runs a small fleet of four bulk carriers, has been hit severely by the recession in the world shipping industry.

Reardon is suffering from the inevitable cutting of rates and margins which has resulted from the overcapacity in the industry, although the number of British ships lying idle last month fell for the fourth successive month.

In the six months to September 30 Reardon made pretax profits of £468,000 after losses of £2.76m in the same period last year.

However, the return to profits was the result of selling two vessels for £1.8m and the renegotiation of an agreement on chartered in losses which contributed £2.6m.

Reardon is likely to face a loss in the final stage as these one-off contributions are unlikely to be repeated.

The immediate trading position looks bleak and there is no immediate sign of any recovery in the trading position according to the board. However, the board said there were signs of recovery in the trading position according to the board. However, the board said there were signs of recovery in the world economy which, it is hoped, would result in an improvement in the movement of dry cargo and a resulting increase in freight rates.

Turnover at Reardon fell from £7.3m to £1.8m, while the trading losses came entirely from the bulk carrier dry cargo fleet after the sale of the two tankers.

Company borrowings fell from £8m to £5m after the sale of the vessels.

The results from Reardon back the claims made by British shippers for extra support from the Government for the industry.

The shipping industry argues that with 81 ships laying idle in the home fleet the Government should consider giving some support to shipowners. In the meantime the General Council for British shipping has given a warning that the industry must control its costs vigorously if the remaining ships are to stay in service.

The continuing problems faced by the industry have led to an assessment by leading analsysts that the most attractive sector of the shipping sector is the non-shipping element of company balance sheets.

APPOINTMENTS

Chairman elect joins Guinness main board

Guinness Peat Group: Mr Albert Frost, who takes over as chairman of Guinness Mahon & Co. on January 1, has been appointed to the board of the parent company, Guinness Peat Group

Elder Dempster Lines: Mr D Sykes will retire as managing director on July 31. He will be succeeded by Mr K H Birch, who is trade director. Elder Dempster is part of Ocean Transport & Trading and Mr Birch will join the group's marine division board from January 1. Mr R P Gregory will become trade director.

Thames Television: Mr Mike Phillips, managing director of Thames Television International, becomes executive director from January 1.

Legal and General Group: Mr T J Palmer, at present general manager of Legal and General International, will in addition to his appointment as deputy group chief executive of Legal and General Group, become chief general manager of Legal and General Assurance Society on January 1. Mr E Wynn Owen, chief general manager of Legal and General Assurance Society, will be appointed chief general manager of Legal and General International on the same date. Mr J K Elbourne, managing director, Legal and General Assurance Holdings (Australia), will become general manager, Legal and General International from July 1.

Stroud Riley Drummond: The following appointments have been made in the leisure fabric division, incorporating Stroud Riley International: Mr Michael Miskell has become assistant managing director; Mr Philip Stott, production director; Mr Tony Lister, developments director and Mr David Maden, accounts director. In the worsted fabric division incorporating James Drummond & Sons and J Haywood & Sons, Mr Leslie Metterick becomes operations and production director. The following appointments have been made after the recent acquisition of Longbottoms (Sowerby Bridge), which has now become part of the worsted fabric division: Mr S M Simmonds becomes group chief executive; Mr R M Stroud, group managing director, Mr B S Levi, group sales director and Mr E E Taylor, group financial *director.*

Why the Hongkong bankers 'have a hard time ahead'

Hongkong, (Reuters) – Problems that arose for the Hongkong banking sector this year means it faces a difficult 1984, the Commissioner for Banking and Despoit Taking Companies, Mr Colin Martin, says.

"This has been the most diffucult year for bankers in the history of Hongkong and it will take several years to make a full adjustment to what will happen," he said.

He attributed the problems to the slump in the property market and uncertainty over Hongkong's political future.

The big fall in property demand and prices badly affected banks, which have lent heavily to the property sector over the last few years, Mr Martin said. "Many loans cannot be paid off until property is sold or leased."

Demand for new loans, particularly for capital investment, was relatively low, and unlikely to pick utp until there was a political settlement between the Chinese and British Government over the future of Hongkong, he added.

However, Mrs Martin said he did not foresee further problems of the type and gravity faced by some local banks earlier this year. In late September, the Hongkong Government acquired the Hang Lung Bank after its failure to meet its liabilities to its clearing bank.

Less than a week later, Merrill Lynch and Co and Cie Financiere de Paris et des Pays Bas (Paribas) took a joint controlling stake in Sun Hung Kai and Co to ward off a potential run on its subsidiary, Sun Hung Kai Bank.

Mr Martin said most Hongkong domestic banks were now in a relatively sound position owing to their minimal exposure to the large property groups.

"Foreign banks are large enough internationally to absorb any losses without being caused too much discomfort," he added. Several local subsidiaries of overseas banking groups are reported by local analysts to be among the main creditors of failed property companies.

In Tokyo, the ability of the stock market to shrug off recent bad political news and roar ahead to record highs this week points to a bullish market in the coming year, market analysts said.

The Japanese economy looks set to move to a more broadly based growth pattern on a revival in domestic demand, raising expectations of higher profits, they said.

There is liquidity available to feed the market because domestic industrial investment has not started a full revival yet, the analysts, noted.

Jerome to sell Davis subsidiary

S Jerome and Sons has agreed to sell its wholly-owned subsidiary, Davis Security Communications, to Cass Group.

Davis manufactures and installs electronic communications and alarm systems.

The total consideration for the sale will be about £650,000, euqivalent to the net book value of Davis's assets.

Part of the payment will be by the issue to Jerome of 350,000 ordinary shares in Cass at an agreed value of £612,500. The balance will be in cash.

Jerome has agreed to retain the Cass shares for at least one year from completion.

For the year ending to the end of December, Cass made a net profit before tax of £916,078.

Edward Jones to raise £1.2m for expansion

By Vivien Goldsmith

Edward Jones Group, the building contractor and property developer, which acquired a medical accent in September when Dr Richard Petty, the cofounder of the International Hospitals Group, became chairman, is raising £1.225m by a rights issue.

Some of this money will go towards the purchase of two nursing homes in Southern England for £660,000 and paying £1.5 to Woodbourne Company (Jersey) for Raz Investments and Mannez Investments whose sole assets are a 15 per cent stake in IHG (International Hospitals Group) and IHG (Medical Services) respectively. The initial payment of £400,000 will be paid from the proceeds of the rights issue.

The issue is of 4,295,732 ordinary shares on the basis of two for three and 10 new ordinary shares for every £3 of loan stock at 32p per share. After the announcement the shares were down 1p at 41p.

The company is trying to mop up the 15 per cent loan stock 1996/98 by offering holders ordinary shares at an improved conversion rate – 11 ordinary for every £2 of loan stock rather than 5 ordinary for every £1 of loan stock. There is £429,573 of loan stock outstanding which, on conversion at the improved rate, would result in the creation of 2,362,652 new ordinary shares.

Edward Jones
Half-year to 30.6.1983
Pretax profit £30,000
(£ 63,000 loss)
Stated earnings 0.7p (loss 1.47p)
Turnover £1.75 million (£1.38 million)
Net interim/dividend Nil (Nil)
Share price 41p

Mr Nicholas Morris, the managing director, said that this was "a clean and easy way of mopping up the loan stock". He added that it would also have *the effect of boosting the* balance sheet.

The announcement coincided with the group's half-time results. The company made a trading loss of £8,000 on a turnover of £1.75m compared with a trading loss of £63,000 on turnover of £1.38m in the first six months last year.

The trading loss was turned into pretax profits of £30,000 by a profit of £38,000 on the sale of a supermarket in North Wales. No dividend is being paid.

The group, however, is forecasting that it might reach breakeven by the end of the year, and although that is unlikely to result in a dividend payment this year, there is the glimmer of hope that dividend will return in the next financial year.

Mr Morris said that IHG, which made profits of £1.994m in 1982, may go public in its own right.

WALL STREET

	Dec 21	Dec 20
AMF Inc	16	15¾
AMR	37¼	38½
Allied Chem	53⅜	52⅞
Allied Stores	48¼	47½
Allis Chalmers	15¼	16
Alcoa	43½	43¼
Amax Inc	24½	24¾
Amerada Hess	27⅜	26¾
Am Brands	58⅞	58⅞
Am Broadcast	54⅜	54½
Am Can	48¼	47¾
Am Cyanamid	49	48
Am Elec Power	17⅞	17⅞
Am Home	48⅜	48⅜
Am Motors	7	6¾
Am Nat Res	44	43⅞
Am Standard	30⅜	30⅞
Am Telephone	63¼	63¼
Armco Steel	20¼	20⅞
Asarco	29½	29¼
Ashland Oil	27⅛	26¾
Atlntic Richfield	42	39⅞
Avco	30⅜	30½
Avon Products	25	24⅞
Bankers Tst NY	44⅜	45
Bank of America	20¾	20¾
Bank of Boston	39⅜	40⅜
Bank of NY	32⅜	31⅞
Beatrice Foods	31⅞	31⅛
Bethlehem Steel	27⅜	26⅞
Boeing	45⅞	46
Boise Cascade	44¼	43
Borden	56⅜	56⅜
Borg Warner	24¼	24¼
Bristol Myers	42	42½
BP	23	22⅛
Burlington Ind	35	35
Burlington Nthn	96⅜	97⅛
Burroughs	48⅜	48⅜
Campbell Soup	63¼	63¼
Canadian Pacific	40⅝	40¼
Caterpillar	47⅞	47⅞
Celanese	72⅞	73½
Central Soya	15	15¾
Chase Manhat	43⅜	44
Chem Bank NY	44½	45⅜
Chrysler	27½	27⅜
Citicorp	38¼	38½
Clark Equip	36⅛	36⅛
Coca Cola	54½	54¼
Colgate	21⅞	21⅜
CBS	65	65¾
Columbia Gas	34⅜	33¾
Combustion Eng	33	33⅜
Cmwlth Edison	28⅞	28⅞
Cons Edison	24⅜	25⅞
Cons Foods	50½	50⅜
Cons Power	14⅝	14¼
Continental Grp	55⅛	53⅞
Control Data	44	44⅜
Corning Glass	68⅜	68⅛
CPC Intnl	39⅜	41¼
Crane	30⅞	30⅞
Crocker Int	24	24¼
Crown Zeller	37⅞	37¼
Dart & Kraft	67⅞	66¼
Deere	38¼	38⅛
Delta Air	41½	41¼
Detroit Edison	13¼	13⅜
Disney	51½	50⅞
Dow Chemical	31⅝	31¼
Dresser Ind	19¼	18⅞
Duke Power	25¼	25⅜
Du Pont	51⅛	50⅜
Eastern Air	6⅜	6¼
Eastman Kodak	74⅞	73⅜
Eaton Corp	53⅜	53¼
El Paso Nat Gas	23⅜	23⅞
Esmark	43⅜	43
Evans P. D.	9⅞	9⅞
Exxon Corp	37⅛	36⅞
Fed Dept Stores	52¼	50⅜
Firestone	23¼	23¼
Fst Chicago	25⅞	23¾

	Dec 21	Dec 20
Fst Intrst Bncp	43	42¼
Fst Penn Corp	6¼	6⅝
Ford	43⅜	41⅞
GAF Corp	16⅜	15⅞
GTE Corp	43¼	43½
Gen Dynamics	57⅞	57⅞
Gen Electric	57⅜	56⅜
Gen Foods	52⅜	52⅜
Gen Mills	52¼	53⅛
Gen Motors	74	73⅝
Gen Pub Util NY	8⅛	8⅛
Gen Tire	38⅛	37½
Genesco	7⅞	7⅞
Georgia Pacific	24⅞	24⅞
Getty Oil	79¼	80⅜
Gillette	47⅞	48⅜
Goodrich	30⅜	30⅜
Goodyear	29⅜	28¼
Gould Inc	31⅛	30⅞
Grace	44⅞	45
Gt Atlic & Pacific	11¼	11⅛
Greyhound	25⅞	26⅛
Grumman Corp	30⅜	29⅜
Gulf Oil	42⅜	42⅞
Gulf & West	30½	30⅜
Heinz H. J.	36⅞	36¼
Hercules	35⅜	35½
Honeywell	137⅞	135⅜
IC Inds	48	48⅜
Ingersoll	51½	50⅞
Inland Steel	30½	29⅞
IBM	122½	121⅞
Int Harvester	12⅞	12⅞
INCO	14⅝	14¼
Int Paper	59⅜	58½
Int Tel Tel	44½	43⅞
Irving Bank	52¼	52⅛
Jewel Co	47⅞	47⅞
Jim Walter	37⅞	39
Johnson & John	41	41⅛
Kaiser Alumin	19¼	18⅞
Kerr McGee	29⅜	28⅞
Kimberly Clark	94⅛	94⅜
K Mart	33⅜	32¼
Kroger	35¼	34⅞
L.T.V. Corp	17½	16⅞
Litton	68⅜	68¼
Lockheed	38¼	38⅜
Lucky Stores	18⅛	18
Manuf Hanover	37⅞	38
Manville Cp	11½	11⅛
Mapco	23¼	23⅜
Marine Midland	24	24
Martin Marietta	34⅜	34⅜
McDonnell	58⅜	58⅜
Mead	39½	38
Merck	91	91½
Minnesota Mng	85	84
Mobil Oil	28	27¼
Monsanto	108	104⅜
Morgan J. P.	69½	68⅜
Motorola	132⅜	131¼
NCR Corp	122⅞	124
NL Industries	15¼	15⅛
Nabisco	41	41
Nat Distillers	26⅛	26¼
Nat Med Ent	23⅜	21⅞
Norfolk South	63⅜	63⅜
NW Bancorp	31⅞	31
Occidental Pet	24⅞	24¼
Ogden	30⅜	30⅜
Olin Corp	31	31¼
Owens-Illinois	37⅛	37⅛
Pacific Gas Elec	15¼	15⅛
Pan Am	6⅞	6⅞
Penney J. C.	56⅜	55⅞
Pennzoil	32⅜	32⅛
Pepsico	37⅛	36⅜
Pfizer	35⅛	35⅜
Phelps Dodge	25	25⅜
Philip Morris	71¼	71⅞
Phillips Petrol	33⅜	32⅞
Polaroid	31⅞	32⅛
PPG Ind	34½	34⅜

	Dec 21	Dec 20
Proctor Gamble	57	56
Pub Ser El & Gas	24	24¼
Raytheon	44⅜	43⅜
RCA Corp	34½	33⅞
Republic Steel	27¼	27⅛
Reynolds Ind	59	58⅜
Reynolds Metal	32⅛	30⅞
Rockwell Int	33⅞	32⅛
Royal Dutch	43⅛	42⅞
Safeways	26⅜	26
St Regis Paper	35	34⅜
Santa Fe Ind	30⅜	30¼
SCM	35⅞	36
Schlumberger	47⅞	45⅜
Scott Paper	31⅞	30⅞
Seagram	32½	36⅛
Sears Roebuck	37	38
Shell Oil	38	38½
Shell Trans	31⅛	30⅞
Signal Co	32⅜	32⅜
Singer	28½	28⅜
Smithkline Beck	56⅞	56⅜
Sony	16	15½
Sth Cal Edison	41¼	40⅜
Southern Pacific	39	39
Sperry Corp	47	46⅜
Std Oil California	33⅜	32⅞
Std Oil Indiana	47⅞	47
Std Oil Ohio	47⅞	40½
Sterling Drug	27¼	26⅞
Stevens J. P.	19⅜	20¼
Sun Comp	42⅞	42¼
Teledyne	163⅞	163
Tenneco	40½	39⅜
Texaco	35½	35⅜
Texas East Corp	53¼	52⅜
Texas Inst	130¼	136⅜
Texas Utilities	25⅞	25⅞
Textron	32½	32½
TWA	30¾	37⅞
Travelers Corp	30⅞	30⅞
TRW Inc	80	78⅛
UAL Inc	38	37
Union Carbide	63½	62⅜
Union Oil Calif	29⅞	29¼
Un Pacific Corp	49⅛	47⅞
Uniroyal	16¼	16¼
United Brands	15⅞	16
US Industries	15⅜	15⅞
US Steel	29⅜	29⅞
Utd Technol	70½	70⅜
Wachovia	45⅜	44½
Warner Comms	24	22⅞
Warner Lambert	28⅞	28⅜
Wells Fargo	41¼	40⅞
Westnghse Elec	54⅜	53⅜
Weyerhauser	34¼	33⅞
Whirlpool	48	47½
Woolworth	35⅛	35⅜
Xerox Corp	50¼	50⅜
Zenith	34⅞	33½

Canadian Prices

	Dec 21	Dec 20
Abitibi	29¼	28
Alcan Alumin	47⅛	47
Algoma Steel	29⅜	28
Bell Telephone	33⅜	32¼
Cominco	55⅜	55⅞
Cons Bathurst	26⅜	26¼
Gulf Oil	16¼	16¼
Hawker/Sid Can	18⅜	18⅜
Imasco	35½	35½
Imperial Oil	36⅜	35⅞
Int Pipe	34	32⅜
Mass-Fergsn	5⅛	5⅛
Royal Trustco	23	29
Seagram	43½	44⅛
Steel Co	30¼	30⅛
Thomson N 'A'	38¼	38⅛
Walker Hiram	28¼	27⅞
WCT	15⅛	15

* Ex div. a Asked. c Ex distribution. b Bid. k Market closed. n New issue p Stock split t Traded. y Unquoted.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

Suter has exchanged contracts with a local industrial company for the sale of six acres of land at Theale, Berkshire, for £2m.

Sumrie Cloths: 26 weeks to Oct 1, 1983. Figures in £000. Turnover 1,336 (1,259). Trading loss 78 (34). Exceptional items 16 (nil). Loss before tax 94 (34). Tax nil (nil). Board belives there will be a return to profitability by the year-end.

James Crean: Half-year to June 30, 1983. Figures in Irish £000. Turnover 41,265 (41,653). Pretax profit 1,017 (470). Board expects second half to be better than first.

Highgate and Job Group: Half-year to Sept 30, 1983. Figures in £000. Turnover 3,188 (3,191). Pretax loss 2 (63). Results confirm target for a return to profit this year.

Pict Petroleum: Year to Oct 31, 1983. Figures in £000. Loss on ordinary operations, before and after tax, 232 (1,604). No dividend (same).

Sutcliffe, Speakman: Half-year to Sept. 30, 1983. Figures in £000. Turnover 2,751 (2,924). Loss 124 (loss 159) after tax and minorities. No interim dividend (same).

Banker Investment Trust: Year to Oct. 31, 1983, compared with 18 months to Oct. 31, 1982. Total revenue £3.09m (£4.03m). Total dividend 4.16p, against an annualised 3.95p. One-for-one scrip issue proposed.

Cronite Group: Year to Sept. 30, 1983. Figures in £000. Turnover 10,832 (10,507). Pretax loss 1,234 (80).

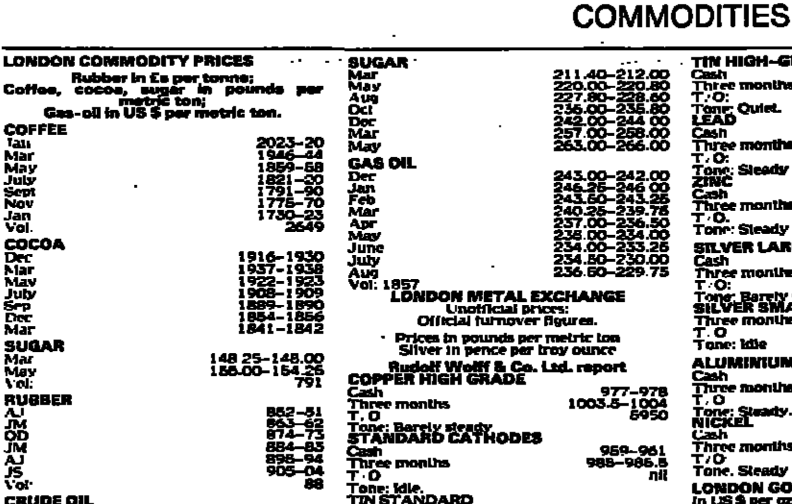
Turnbull Scott Holdings: Figures in £000. Turnover 8,508 (10,581). Pretax profit 140 (loss 1,1716). Interim payment 3p (same).

Victoria Carpet Holdings: Half-yr to Sept. 30, 1983. Figures in £000. Turnover 10,784 (8,827). Pretax profit 150 (100).

Superdrug Stores: Nine months to Nov. 26, 1983. Figures in £000. Turnover 72,272 (58,642). Pretax profit 4,969 (3,891).

Electric and General Investment Company: Half-year to Nov. 30, 1983. Gross income £1.12m (£650,000). Interim payment raised from 1.1p to 1.35p a share and board predicts maintained final of 1.75p a share.

COMMODITIES



LONDON COMMODITY PRICES
Rubber in £s per tonne; Coffee, cocoa, sugar in pounds per metric ton; Gas-oil in US $ per metric ton.

COFFEE	
Jan	2023-20
Mar	1946-44
May	1859-58
July	1821-20
Sept	1791-90
Nov	1775-70
Jan	1730-23
Vol.	2649

COCOA	
Dec	1916-1930
Mar	1937-1938
May	1922-1923
July	1908-1909
Sep	1889-1890
Dec	1854-1856
Mar	1841-1842

SUGAR	
Mar	148 25-148.00
May	156.00-154.25
Vol:	791

RUBBER	
AJ	862-51
JM	863-62
OD	874-73
JM	884-85
AJ	898-94
JS	905-04
Vol	88

CRUDE OIL	
Feb	28.80-28.20
Mar	28.30-28.28
Apr	28.23-28.22
May	28.10-28.06

SUGAR	
Mar	211.40-212.00
May	220.00-220.80
Aug	227.80-228.80
Oct	236.00-235.80
Dec	242.00-244 00
Mar	257.00-258.00
May	263.00-266.00

GAS OIL	
Dec	243.00-242.00
Jan	246.25-246 00
Feb	243.60-243.25
Mar	240.25-239.75
Apr	237.00-236.50
May	238.00-234.00
June	234.00-233.25
July	234.80-230.00
Aug	236.50-229.75
Vol: 1857	

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE
Unofficial prices: Official turnover figures.
Prices in pounds per metric ton. Silver in pence per troy ounce.
Rudolf Wolff & Co. Ltd. report

COPPER HIGH GRADE	
Cash	977-978
Three months	1003.5-1004
T. O	5950
Tone: Barely steady	

STANDARD CATHODES	
Cash	959-961
Three months	985-986.5
T. O	nil
Tone: Idle.	

TIN STANDARD	
Cash	8335-8340
Three months	8499-8500
T/O:	3225
Tone: Weak.	

TIN HIGH-GRADE	
Cash	8400-8410
Three months	8515-8525
T/O:	800
Tone: Quiet.	

LEAD	
Cash	276-276.5
Three months	286-286.5
T/O:	2800
Tone: Steady	

ZINC	
Cash	607-608
Three months	621.5-622
T/O.	1550
Tone: Steady	

SILVER LARGE	
Cash	607-608
Three months	621.5-622.5
T/O:	32
Tone: Barely steady.	

SILVER SMALL	
Three months	622-623
T. O	nil.
Tone: Idle	

ALUMINIUM	
Cash	1096 5-1097.5
Three months	1125-1126.5
T. O	4100
Tone: Steady.	

NICKEL	
Cash	3220-3230
Three months	3303-3305
T/O	162
Tone. Steady	

LONDON GOLD FUTURES MARKET
In US $ per oz.

Dec	377.00-380.00
Feb	382.10-382.60
Apl	388.30-389 10
Jun	394.50-395.80
Aug	401.00-402 50
Oct	408 40-408 50

LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL FUTURES
Rudolf Wolff Financial Services Ltd.

Month	Volume	Settlement
YEN		
Mar'84	37	4308
Jun'84	–	4348
Comment: Firmer.		
BRITISH		
Mar'84	124	14298
Jun'84	2	14315
Comment: Steady.		
D-MARK		
Mar'84	29	3646
Jun'84	–	3677
Comment: Holding.		
SWISS FRANC		
Mar'84	0	4585
Jun'84	0	4685
Comment: Quiet.		
EURODOLLARS		
Mar'84	1092	8978
Jun'84	228	8946
Sep'84	133	8922
Dec'84	1	8897
Mar'85	–	8877
Comment: Firm		
SHORT STERLING		
Mar'84	354	9041
Jun'84	211	9028
Sep'84	40	9012
Dec'84	–	9002
Comment: Quiet.		
GILTS		
Dec'83	30	1010
Mar'84	1522	0908
Jun'84	–	0825
Sep'84	–	0810
Dec'84	–	0727

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9%
Barclays	9%
BCCI	9%
Citibank Savings	†10¼%
Consolidated Crds	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	*9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Nat Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

† Mortgage Base Rate.
* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000, 5½%: £10,000 up to £50,000, 6¼%, £50,000 and over, 7¼%.

YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Shake-up for Wavy Line

By Derek Harris

Mace and Wavy Line, recently merged to become the largest group of small grocers operating as a "symbol" chain, is planning a big shake-up to meet increasing high street competition.

Two main new thrusts have emerged largely from a three-year investigation of store development at Wavy Line which has been operating totally under the umbrella of Booker McConnell whose other retailing operations include the Budgen supermarkets.

Mr Derek Abbott, hitherto chairman of Wavy Line, has just become chief executive of the merged Mace-Wavy Line operation, Mace having been 70 per cent a Booker organization with a number of other wholesalers also involved.

Part of the merged chain, mostly rather larger outlets, is to be revamped under a scheme aimed at making such outlets more competitive with the big multiple grocery chains. Others in the chain will be encouraged to emphasize the convenience store concept, with early, late and weekend opening in a style most big supermarkets do not match.

On offer are new decor, new marketing plans and other developments aimed at adding a more positive approach to retailing in the merged chain whose members now number 3,800, some of them with more than one outlet. But the biggest proportion of the members operate single shops run typically by husband and wife teams.

Although Mace-Wavy Line has the largest number of members, who are essentially franchisees operating under the symbol banner, it *still lags* behind Spar in share of the packaged grocery market. Spar, the other leading symbol chain, has 2.5 per cent market share against Mace-Wavy Line at 1.8 per cent. VG is number three in the symbol league with a market share of less than 1 per cent.

Abbott says: "The Trader's Opportunity Plan, TOP for short, has been 90 per cent a Wavy Line development but it has now been proved in 112 stores and will be pushed through nationally this coming year. By the end of 1984 there should be up to 500 TOP stores."

The idea is to refurbish stores, with outside fascias emphasising the name of the retailer running it and operated under a merchandising plan put together by the symbol chain's specialists.

One Essex store underwent the treatment at a cost of around £8,500 compared with the £3,000 it would have cost just to have a repaint. A Kent outlet in its first year after the TOP treatment saw turnover rise by a quarter, with a gross profit margin increase of 2 per cent.

Abbott said: "We cannot match the multiples on price. But we have to make sure that there is no more than 10 per cent difference in the shopping basket for purchases in our TOP stores compared with the multiples. In the TOP stores already operating the average sales uplift has been 16 per cent. And they are more geared to higher profit margin products."

Frozen and fresh foods, delicatessen items and alcoholic drinks are important parts of the mix. Drinks are an important sales generator and an important key to drawing customers to shops. The chain has 2,200 of its outlets licensed.

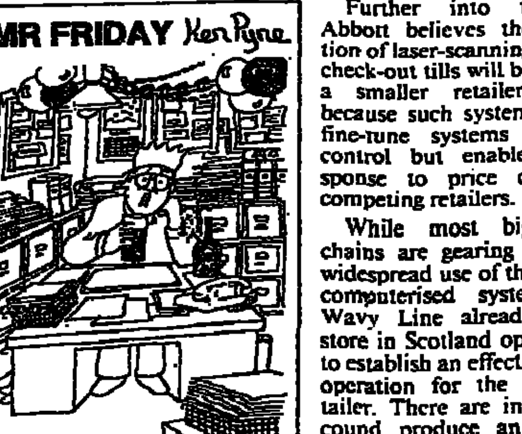
Specific prices can be guaranteed within the TOP scheme allowing the chain to offer special deals to food and drink manufacturers, the concomitant of which are specially discounted prices from the makers. Until now only the big multiples have been able to make such offers to manufacturers with an end result of bringing prices down to the customer.

So far 700 of the chain's stores have been re-launched as convenience stores. Within two years the number is expected to double because this is seen as one of the strongest ploys of the small retailer in meeting the competition of the supermarkets.

Further into the future Abbott believes the introduction of laser-scanning systems at check-out tills will be crucial for a smaller retailer. This is because such systems not only fine-tune systems like stock control but enable swift response to price changes by competing retailers.

While most big multiple chains are gearing up for the widespread use of the electronic computerised systems Mace-Wavy Line already has one store in Scotland operating live to establish an effective mode of operation for the smaller retailer. There are indications it cound produce an overheads saving of 0.75 per cent going straight to the bottom line, according to Abbott.





"This is what I hate most about Christmas – my office party"



Derek Abbott: aiming at 500 TOP stores

BRIEFING

■ Business in the Community, the organisation set up two years ago to encourage commerce and industry to become more involved in local communities, has told the Government that substantial public funding may be necessary if the number of enterprise agencies is to be expanded beyond the current level of about 142, writes Jeremy Warner.

The Government has made the development of enterprise agencies - organisations which are set up and funded by big business to encourage enterprise and business activity - into a key feature of the small firms policy being developed under David Trippier, the Department of Trade and Industry minister with special responsibility for small firms.

He has already expressed the hope that there will be up to 300 of these agencies with a national spread by the end of 1985.

But the big companies that have supported the agencies so far set up - among which England's four big clearing banks figure prominently - feel there is a limit to the amount of finance they can put into future ventures.

Around a quarter of the finance for the agencies already in existence is public money provided either by local authorities or through the Department of the Environment's urban programme for reviving inner-city areas.

Business in the Community believes that the proportion of public money will have to rise substantially if many more agencies are to be established.

The notional figure that has been handed to the Department of Trade and Industry to form a basis of discussion is that as much as £3m may be needed.

It is recognised both by business and government that the next 100 agencies are going to be considerably more difficult to finance than has hitherto been the case.

■ There are plenty of published sources of advice on financing of small businesses but far fewer on organizing marketing. A new one, leading up to the preparation of an overall marketing plan, has bee produced by the one-year old New Work Trust at Bristol and published by Avon County Council. It is free.

Author Michael Winwood, who is managing director of New Work Trust set up to help new businesses in the Bristol area, says too few business people consider carefully enough who or where their market is. *Contact: Establishing Your Marketing Plan* from either County of Avon Publicity Department, PO Box 41, Avon House, The Haymarket, Bristol BS99 7NF or from New Work Trust, Avondale Workshops, Woodland Way, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1QH.

■ Open to individuals or teams of up to four people in engineering manufacturing is the second Manufacturing Effectiveness competition sponsored by Willis Fabor, insurance brokers, and organized by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers with £10,000 to be won. The Prime Minister this week sent a message of support for the competition which is for the best presentation of an improvement in manufacturing effectiveness as in the application of new technology, marketing, production, product design or use of capital resources. *Details: Peter Pugh, Institution of Mechanical Engineers*, 1 Birdcage Walk, London SW1; telephone (01) 222 7899; notification of entry by June 1

Getting the prospectus right

By Wayne Lintott

Last week I discussed the problems of smaller companies attempting to expand and the difficulties involved in raising the finance to do it.

Some form of equity funding emerged as the most desirable way of achieving support. A major problem is an inadequately prepared business prospectus.

It is a company's principal sales tool in raising capital. They will want to see that to determine that an entreprenuer is as capable of responding effectively to opportunities as problems. Keep it under 50 pages and succinct.

The following guidelines will help. Begin with a summary of the industry, your company and its product or service. Give a market research analysis to include customers, the market size and the competition you face in it. Give an accurate appraisal of market share and don't exagerate sales. And your view of how the market is likely to evolve.

Then go straight in to your marketing proposlas. What is the statgy, pricing, sales tactics, the service and guarantee policies backing that up and what are the advertising and promotion needs.

If a manufacturer what is your current development status and the difficulties and risks involved? How can the product or service be improved and at what cost? Can business be improved by changing location – to a rate free enterprise zone, for instance? Do your facilities need upgrading? What are the future strategy and plans in this area? Is enough skilled labour available locally?

Follow that with a management breakdown: how the firm is organized, who are the key personnel and what compensation and equity stake they have. Are they directors? Is further management assistance needed? Admit your weaknesses so that they can be offset. Professional services and outside work may be necessay. It may be acquired cheaper by bringing it in-house.

Give an overall schedule showing the timing and interrelationship of the events necessary to realize the stated objectives. Show clearly the order of events between start-up market penetration and the evolving costs. Show all the critical risks and problems that might disturb that process and how the company can overcome them.

Finally, the financial plan. You will need profit and loss forecasts, cash flow analysis, balance sheets, break-even charts and cost controls. Give past income statements, cash flow break-downs and previous break-even records. What finance is needed, what security or equity is being offered, how much will the company be capitalized at and how are the funds going to be used?

Having done all that, there is then the question of which institutions to approach. Do shop around. Go to the chamber of commerce and contact the Department of Trade and Industry and get a list of authorized BES funds. Find out the names of the major merchant banks and stockbrokers; they can often find equity sources of finance.

Next contact the selected institutions, see if there is an interest and ask for their investment requirements. Remember, if not dealing with a principal then be doubly careful of middle-men like fund managers.

Make sure that there is no element of debt in the funding. Be careful of any special rights to be attached to the shares you are offering.

Are the legal fees, surveys, market research and produc t evaluation really necessary given the work already done in the prospectus? If an anual fee is being charged for supervision of the capital do not get driven into paying an index-linked fee for a non -executive director meant to be doing the same thing.

Be particularly wary of any clause that allows a fund manager, not the investor, to take a chunk of equity, usually 15 per cent, at any time over the nxt five years at par. That is usually attached to the small print which gives the fund mangagers the exclusive right to bring the company to the stock market. That means an entrepreneur signing a blank cheque for the future.

If the fund manager will not budge then insist that the charge is only the going rate at the time. All they do is pass you on to stockbroker and double that charge. Under no circumstances get stuck with rigid performance targets. You'll find that included with the special rights attached to the shares. One way often used to achieve that is by attaching disproportionate voting rights to the shares.

An equity investment is precisley that: shared risk for a shared profit. It should not be an opportunity for some slick operator to pull the rug out from under.

Rugby in the wars: the sin of commission that is the the omission of Davies

Tactics order of the day in game's running battle

By Gerald Davies

It was J. J. Stewart, after long and distinguished services as administrator and coach in New Zealand, who said that he had only learnt one thing for certain throughout his rugby career: that there is more than one way of playing the game. Listening to the current arguments which have arisen over the recent mixture of good fortune and bad which have attended the Welsh side so far, this could be interpreted, mistakenly, to mean that there are two ways.

There are those who, with evangelical tones, wish blithely to promote running rugby as if it were some new idea born in the 1980s. As with such phrases as "gain line" and "second-phase possession" of a decade ago, which the new, rising class of coaches sought to revolutionize the game, running rugby is fast becoming a cliche mouthed with emphatic capital letters.

Less fanciful

Others, in hectoring tones, want to pursue, in these uncertain times in Welsh rugby, something less fanciful. Pontypool are the most successful side, so they argue, therefore the national team ought to play in a similar tight fashion.

As both camps settle in their different corners, they are each dismissive of the other's argument. As a policy, running rugby it must be, of course, but there is a danger in adopting a self-righteous and rigid posture as if nothing else mattered. It is contagious. Whispers from over the border suggest that there were some misgivings, even regret, that England, in beating New Zealand, should have played a more open game. In the context of an historical victory, this is a lot of retrospective hogwash.

To play a running game initially can be no more thana strategy which coaches can prepare off the field so as to instil the right attitude, but it is the players on the field who will determine whether this is the best way, tactically, to win the game. Games are won or lost depending on how effectively the players can take advantage of their own and their team's strengths to exploit the weaknesses of the opposition. There is more than one way in which any one game can be played depending on the ebb and flow of the match. It needs a shrewd tactician to be aware of that.

In announcing the Welsh squad, the Welsh Rugby Union selectors, in omitting Gareth Davies, have left themselves open to criticism, and possible embarrassment, if this largely untested squad fail to deliver the goods. Davies's exclusion last year may have been justified but it is no longer so, featuring so prominently as he does in Cardiff's present success.

In the context of the back line as a whole which, if the selectors base their final decision, as they must, on the performances of those teams who played against Japan, Romania and France B, there is a lack of generalship and experience. They came close to defeat against Japan and lost ignominiously against Romania for want of that tactical awareness.

Lacking balance

It needs a strong personality with tactical nous, preferably in on or both of the half-back positions, to bring out the best in any team. This is particularly so in view of the fact that membership of the back row is in doubt and opend to debate. If, as it looks, the front five will be just about right, the back five, as Carwyn James often referred to the back row and half backs, lacks a commanding figure and overall balance. The loss of Jeff Squire, through retirement, and the powerfully ubiquitour Holmes, through long-suffering injuries, denies the team that essential authority this season.

It would be a shame that in pursuing a commendably adventurous approach the Welsh selectors have been blind to the qualities which Gareth Davies could well have brought to the team. He, too, can run with the ball if the need demands, provided he has other players to support him.



Gareth Davies: he, too, can run with the ball

CRICKET

Search for Willis's successor reveals four candidates

By Derek Hodgson

The proud spirit of Warwick the Kingmaker would be pleased to see the embarkation of England's cricketers for Fiji, New Zealand and Pakistan at Gatwick on Thursday afternoon. Rarely has the Neville family badge of the Ragged Staff and Bear been flourished abroad so profusely: England's manager, A C Smith, his assistant, Norman Gifford, the captain Bob Willis and the physiotherapist and counsellor, Bernard Thomas, are all associated with Warkwickshire.

Such a preponderance of influence from one county may not be a bad thing. Shared experience is always a unifying bond and Willis, presumably, can count on total support from the back room whenever he finds himself in a tight corner, be it in cricket or politics, areas in which the England management abroad needs to be skilled today.

Fiji is a missionary call, the first time an England team have played in those friendly isles. Jardine's team had a fixture there washed out in 1933. Tempers will be sharper in New Zealand where neither the players nor the public will now accept being rolled over and patted gently on the head, puppy-like. Pakistan is an ever bubbling cauldron of politics, cricket and cricket politics, as any 10-second conversation with Sarfraz Nawaz will confirm.

A management unified before the start does make sense. Despite a fusillade of criticism from the media Smith did an excellent job as manager of the potentially explosive tour of West Indies in 1981 when Robin Jackman was barred from Guyana and a Test match cancelled at the Bourda. If Smith were inclined to ask Lord's first and speak afterwards, it was a wise preliminary, step towards not putting a foot wrong in a minefield of prejudices and fierce local loyalties.

Willis, as a 34-year-old fast bowler, is surely in his last tour as a player yet is very much a kingmaker in his own right. He has survived as captain, after losing the Ashes, because he willed himself irreplaceable as the strike bowler, because the selectors were and still are uncertain of his eventual successor and because he still, clearly, commands the loyalty and good will of his troops.

The nominated vice-captain, Gower, remains the heir-apparent but is no longer alone on the steps to the throne. Circumstance, and the passage of time, have given him three rivals. First is Botham, who proved, after, Rose's unfortunate injury, that leadership of Somerset has rekindled his zest for cricket.

There are two more county captains in the tour party: Tavaré, of Kent, and Gatting, of Middlesex. Tavaré has become a fixture in the England side, a batsman who can give an innings the adhesive quality of Boycott yet who is also able to fling the bat when instructed. Gatting has still to secure his place but is a good enough player to require no extra qualification if he were to enter the team as captain.

All four of the above, two of whom will be selectors, will have to be assessed and reported upon by Willis. The captain cannot be ruled out of a final fling against West Indies at home in the summer and has been quoted only this week as saying "I'll play as long as they want me and I feel fit enough." Time and the strain of having to bowl fast up to three times a day is against him and, whatever happens in the next three months, by June the selectors' priority must be the questioning of his successor.

Botham controversy

Ian Botham has been *told* by Donald Carr, the secretary of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), that he would be taking a "ridiculously unecessary risk" if, as seems likely, he decides only 48 hours before he is due to leave with the England cricketers on their winter tour.

Botham is needed by Scunthorpe for their matches against Hull on Boxing Day, and Preston 24 hours later. A spokesman for the club said yesterday: "We are assuming that Ian will be playing in both games. Ian has indicated he will be available. His contract for cricket does not start until next Thursday."

Scunthorpe are fifth from the bottom of the third division and are badly affected by injuries. Botham played a key midfield role in their last two matches – both of which they won.

England leave on their tour to Fiji, New Zealand and Pakistan on December 29. Mr Cass and the TCCB are particularly concerned about the risk of injury to Botham so close to the departure date.

The TCCB admit, however, that there is nothing in Botham's contract to prevent him playing football. TCCB spokesman, Peter Lush said yesterday: "Mr Carr spoke to Ian last night. It would be fair to say that Ian, although he has agreed to talk it over with the Scunthorpe manager, did not agree with our view that he should not play." Botham in fact told Mr Carr that he could get injured "at any time doing anything".

Botham trained with Scunthorpe yesterday. Afterwards the club issued a statement confirming that Botham was available to play.

Despite the injury risk, Botham's footballing activity may have been a bonus for English cricket. By training hard with Scunthorpe for the past three months, Botham, who was accused of being overweight in Australia last winter, has shed 10lbs. He is fitter now than for several years.

● Cornhill Insurance, sponsors of Test cricket in England, have announced that Bob Willis's touring team will receive an award of £1,750 for each Test match victory in New Zealand and Pakistan.

HOCKEY

An end to Monday's fun

By Joyce Whitehead

On Boxing Day many players join with the men in their one mixed match of the year. It is fun and games for all. Then the county championship begins in earnest.

The five territories hold residential inter-county tournaments which, together with the games that have already been played, will decide the five territorial county champions to go forward to the National County Championship finals in February.

The North assembles at Queen Mary's school, Lytham St Annes, on the 27th. East, Medlands and West start on the 28th.

The Midlands play in Bedford with Leicestershire leading Staffordshire and Warwickshire by one point with a match in hand. Leicestershire, however, have their stiffer opposition still to come. They start the tournament by playing Derbyshire at the Polehill Ground at 1.45 pm. Staffordshire start the programme at Sydney Road half an hour later with a game against Northamptonshire.

The East play at the Eurosports Village, Shotley, where each county will play five matches in four days. Suffolk are unbeaten at the top

The West play at the Ladies' College grounds in Cheltenham with Avon, Devon and Somerset in the lead and all unbeaten. And Somerset meet Avon at 11.45 on the first day. Devon begin against Cornwall at 1.15 pm.

The South do not start until New Year's Day and their tournament is only a two-day affair in which it looks as though Surrey and Middlesex will give Berkshire, the holders, a run for their money. They play at the National Sports Centre, Bisham Abbey, near Marlow.

Peace talks by HA

England's leading hockey officials will hand out a New Year olive-branch to their Great Britain counterparts in an attempt to patch up their differences in time for the Los Angeles Olympic Games. The Hockey Association have invited representatives of the Great Britain men's board and team management to their next meeting in London on January 5.

At present leading player's could be asked to compete in the European Cup for England and be selected for Great Britain Olympic trials or preparation matches on the same weekend. The Hockey Association's management committee have also set up a 10-man working party, under the chairmanship of Robin Elliott, to identify the prime causes of unrest between the two bodies.

YACHTING

Britain close the gap

From John Roberson, Sydney

A very consistent performance, in difficult conditions, helped the British team to narrow the lead held by New Zealand in the Hitachi Southern Cross Cup, yerterday. In the third of the 30-mile triangular inshore races the three British yachts, Indulgence, Jade and Panda finished sixth, seventh and eighth, after another ardous light weather race.

There were three general recalls, before the fleet of 27 yachts, loaded with some of the world's best yachtsmen, got away cleanly on the first windward leg in a patchy 5 to 8 knot breeze. At the first mark, the familiar duo of Bandido Bandido (Hong Kong) and Shock wave (Australia) led, with the best placed British yacht Indulgence in sixth position, and the other two in tenth and eleventh places. Places changed little for the remainder of this round, but on the second windward leg, Panda moved into second place.

When the corrected times had been calculated the New Zealand yacht Pacific Sundancer recorded her second win of the series, but the other yachts in her team could only manage 13th and 22nd. This poor showing has norrowed their lead to only 25 points ahead of Britain, not a difficult margin to lose in the triple points scoring Sydney to Hobart race that concludes the series. The Hong Kong team moved into third place ahead of Papua New Guinea, and only 12 points behind Britain.

This predominantly light wind series has done much to rectify the myth put about by Australian yachtsmen that they only sail in 20 knot breezes.

Decision day for Imran

Melbourne (Reuter) – The Pakistan captain, Imran Khan, may be fit for the Fourth Test against Australia starting on Monday.

Imran unexpectedly bowled three overs during a one-day match against south-west New South Wales on Wednesday. His deputy, Zaheer Abbas, said the allrounder would decide on his fitness today.

"There's nothing wrong with Imran or Sarfraz," Zaheer said. "I am hopeful Imran will be able to play in the Test. We will have a meeting to decide. Imran must make the decision – he's the boss."

● Karachi (Reuter) – Pakistan's cricket and hockey chief, Nur Khan, who has weathered several storms over team selections in the past few years, has announced he plans to retire next year, "God willing".

New sponsorship agreed

Durban (Reuter) – South African cricket officials yesterday announced a sponsorship agreement for the series of four-day matches against the West Indian touring team. An electronics company is putting up 200,000 rand (£115,600) for the four matches, the first of which starts here today.

The money will be on top of the 250,000 rand (£145,000) already pledged by another company for the six one-day matches between the West Indians and the South Africans. Joe Pamensky, president of the South African Cricket Union, said he was delighted with the new agreement, which should end argument with the West Indian players, who were unhappy with the money they were receiving from sponsorship.

When the teams met in a one-day game at the Kingsmead ground during the first tour earlier this year the West Indian XI were bowled to victory by Stephenson, who took six wickets for nine runs on a responsive pitch.

Nobody expects the pitch to help the quick bowlers today, but the West Indians will still rely heavily on their fast bowling attack of Stephenson, Clarke, Moseley and Alleyne, backed up by the offspin of Parry.

The Springboks are expected to select two spinners, Kourie and Hobson, and leave out one of their fast bowlers, Hanley or le Roux.

SOUTH AFRICAN XI (from): P N Kirstan (capt), S J Cook, H Fotheringham, R G Pollock, K S McEwan, C E B Rice, A J Kourie, R V Jennings, S T Jeffries, G S le Roux, D Hobson, R Hanley

WEST INDIAN XI (from): L G Rowe (capt), S F A F Bacchus, E Trotman, A I Kallicharran, M A Lynch, C L King, F da C Stephenson, D A Murray, D R Parry, E A Moseley, S T Clarke, H L Alleyne.

Authorized Units & Insurance Funds

Authorized Unit Trusts

1982/83 High Bid	Low Offer	Trust	Bid	Offer	Yield
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

هكذا من الأصل

FOOTBALL: ENGLAND GAIN THE WORLD CUP ITINERARY THEY WANTED

Autumn at Wembley could lead to summer in Mexico

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

Wembley is appropriately to be England's gateway to Mexico and the World Cup fianl in 1986. They will open their campaign there next Octover against Finland, the bottom seeds in group three, and will close it at the beginning of the following season with three successive home ties against Romania, Turkey and finally Northern Ireland.

Bobby Robson, desturbed by the relative failure of his side at home during the European Championship, had joked that each of the World Cup qualifying matches might as well be played away, "where our form for the last two years has been extrarodinarily good". Instead the Football Association chose to follow the recent example of the reigning European champions.

West Germany divided their European Championship qualifying fixtures in half. The first four, squeezed into six weeks, were at home. Only the Irish, who defeted them twoce, threatened to disrupt their carefully planned route to the finals.

Ted Croker, the secretary of the FA, revealed that England had been granted three of the dates and venues they had suggested and had to compromise on the other five. The talks between the representatives at Lancaster Gate lasted for five hours because of the problems presented by the harsh and elongated Scandinavian winter.

Finland are able to play at home between April and September. Their first visitors are Northern Ireland, at the end of May, but their second will not be until England go there a year later when half of the 20 matches will have been completed.

Robson commented: "Everyone was looking advantages but, broadly speaking, it is a balanced schedule. If we can pick up points in those four away games, then we will obviously be in a favourable position. Overall we've got what we wanted and I'm happy about the outcome."

England should start by collecting two points since they have won all six of their games against Finland. Their progress during their subsequent travels to Turkey, for the first time, Northern Ireland and particularly Romania, where they lost a World Cup qualifying tie three


Robson: happy

years ago, are likely to determine their destiny.

Yet, from this distant viewpoint, September 11, 1985 stands out as perhaps the most significant date in England's calendar. The Romanians, who finished ahead fo Italy and Czechoslovakia to claim a place in the European Championship finals, are to play at Wembley that night.

Recent history suggests that England are at their most vulnerable at the dawn of a new season. Two years ago a defeat in Norway in September almost cost them a place in Spain. This year the defeat by Denmark at Wembley in the same treacherous month cost them a place in France.

Group Three qualifying matches

1984
May 27: Finland v Northern Ireland
September 12: Northern Ireland v Romania
October 17: England v Finland
October 31: Turkey v Finland
November 14: Northern Ireland v Finland; Turkey v England

1985
February 27: Northern Ireland v England
April 3: Romania v Turkey
May 1: Northern Ireland v Turkey; Romania v England
May 22: Finland v England
June 6: Finland v Romania
August 28: Romania v Finland
September 11: Turkey v Northern Ireland; England v Romania
September 25: Finland v Turkey
October 16: Romania v Northern Ireland; England v Turkey
November 13: England v Northern Ireland
November 14: Turkey v Romania

French dig in for European finals

Paris (Reuter) – While France have qualified automatically as hosts to next year's European Championship finals their officials have been preparing the country for the tournament. For the past two years several of the nation's top football stadiums have looked like the targets of bombing raids – just because of the European Championship finals.

A construction and renovation programme, costing more than 1,000 million francs (some £90m) was designed to provide ultra-modern venues. The first of 15 matches is due to kick off in the Parc des Princes stadium here on June 12. The final will be staged in the same stadium 15 days later. Organizers throughout the country are working long hours to ensure the stage is set for the biggest football event in France since the 1938 World Cup.

The statistics are intimidating. Some 750,000 tickets have been printed for games spread around the country from Lens in the industrial north, to Marseille on the Mediterranean and Nantes, near the Atlantic coast.

One third have already been sold at prices ranging from 35 francs to 165 francs for the best seats at the final. It is hoped that total gate receipts will reach 50m francs.

The chief press officer, Philippe Tournon, says tickets are good value compared with those for European Cup games in France which can cost up to 250 francs. "The idea is that as many people as possible can follow their teams at prices they can afford," he said. But travelling to games at widely-separated venues could add substantially to the cost.

The first team to emerge from the draw on January 10 will play their opening match in Paris and move to Nantes and Saint-Etienne for their other qualifying games. If they reach the semi-finals they will play in either Marseille and Lyon – where victory would take them back to Paris for the final.

Financial constraints are less likely to affect some 2,000 journalists expected to cover the championship. Most will be from Europe, but accreditation has also been requested from North America, Japan, Mexico and even Lebanon.

A Eurovision centre in Paris will handle television transmissions abroad. Each of the seven stadiums will have a television studio with video equipment for interviews and a sound-proofed press conference room with closed-circuit television relaying news events to all press areas.

Several stadiums have been torn apart and put together again, notably the Stade Felix-Bollaert in Lens

Win salvages pride

Italy	3
Cyprus	1

Perugia (Reuter) – The World Cup holders Italy, already out of next year's European Championship finals, regained some of the battered pride yesterday, cruising to a 3-1 win over Cyprus in their final qualifying match. The Italians, with flashes of the fluency and speed they showed in Spain 18 months ago, thus gained their only win in Group Five and saved them the final crushing indignity of finishing bottom of the table below Cyprus.

After a sluggish and goalless first half with attacking forays by Rossi and Altobelli failing to pierce the tight Cypriot defence, the game came alive. Italy's first goal arrived only five minutes into the second half when Altobelli scored with a perfectly timed header from a corner by Dossena.

But the Cypriots staged a determined rally and finally emerged from their defensive posture, drawing level quarter of an hour later when Isighis scored from a penalty after being fouled by Collovati.

Cabrini put his side back in front with an 80th minute header. Rossi made it 3-1 with a penalty.

For the Italians, dazed by their fall from grace, the result not only saves them from yet another rude shock to their dignity but sets them on the road to finding a new combination to beat the world again Mexico in 1986. Their manager, Enzo Bearzot, says he is determined to put his side's 'darkest year' well behind him.

ITALY: Galli; Bergomi, Cabrini, Righetti (sub, Collovati), Veirchowod, Baresi, Conti (sub, Fanna), Bagni, Rossi, Dossena, Altobelli.
CYPRUS: Konstantinu; Miamiloqs, Kasos, Erotokritus, Nicos Panziaras (sub, Kounas), Thoeofanus (sub, Paskalis).

Superleague beckons one third division club

Chairman realises a gold-mine at Hull

By Peter Ball

Don Robinson, Hull City's dynamic chairman, has an individual explanation for Bob Paisley's decision to retire at the end of last season. "It was because he saw what was happening at Hull and realized that soon Liverpool wouldn't be able to compete with us," he said. "So he got out while they were still on top."

It was, of course, a tongue in cheek remark, but the suspicion lingers that deep down Mr Robinson might really believe it. Certainly Hull's progress since he took over as chairman just over 18 months ago has been quite remarkable. Then the receiver had been called in, the club were in a parlous financial state £400,000 in the red and the team were little better, having just been relegated to the fourth division for the first time in their history. Now they are among the third division leaders with two of their players, the midfield player Steve McClaren and forward Brian Marwood, attracting the eager attention of first division clubs.

Even more impressively the club declared a profit of £10,347 last year and currently stand £94,000 in credit. As that suggests, Hull are no longer the poor relations on Humberside, where the football team is beginning to match and sometimes surpass the gates of the two Rugby League teams who have held a monompoly on the city's sporting affection for a decade.

To all, but those who know Robinson the transformation is remarkable. Three years ago, as chairman of an equally successful non-league side at Scarborough, he was scathing about the financial state of many League clubs. "Most are sitting on a gold mine and don't realize it" he had said, citing Hull as a club he would love to have the opportunity of developing. "It's simply a matter of marketing".

Robinson, to date, has proved as good as his word. He has demonstatedthat his flair as an entertainments millionaire is as effective in football as in seaside amusement parks, theatre and television, and that what worked for a non-League club could readily be transposed into the League.

Indeed his success has persuaded one colleague to say that if it were Don Robinson rather than his fellow Yorkshire chairman Anton Johnson involved with the buying of several clubs, far from a League investigation taking place, "they ought to change the rules and force other clubs to sell to him".

As at Scarborough, the attack has been two-pronged, with a stress on community involvement and lucrative business deals running hand in hand. Mr Robinson is very conscious of the need to make the club part of the community and does so with gusto, whether that involves opening the ground to local leagues to hold their cup finals there, inviting the first six arrivals on the popular side into the boardroom, organizing a marathon or running a 'grab a granny' competition at Christmas allowing children to bring a grandparent into the match without charge.

Important as such small scale activities are in publicizing the club, Mr Robinson's business acumen has also been important. The old plan to redevelop one stand to incorporate boxes was shelved. Instead a supermarket has been built on the stand at the front of the ground, which attracts attention as well as income and plans are afoot to build a dome on top, so that the ground can be used as a Hollywood bowl. The gymnasium is also being turned into an arena where the Harlem Globetrotters have already played.

"You have got to look at other activities", Mr Robinson says. "Of course one looks at Tottenham, Liverpool and Manchester United and seeks to emulate them, but Real Madrid are a better lesson because they have diversified and are financially sound".

If those examples sound as if Mr Robinson has ideas above his third division station, the impression is correct. Recently Ron Saunders suggested that a super leage was being formed in the first divison, with even clubs like Birmingham no longer able to compete with the six biggest clubs. Mr Robinson also believes a super league is inevitable, and that Hull will be in it.

"Sooner or later we are going to be playing the Liverpools and Manchester Uniteds, and we not only want to be in the super league, we want to win it. We have as much potential here as anywhere. Hull is a big club, we've got our own railway station and easy road access."

The Humber Bridge has opened the area up and there are 1.5 million people within half-an-hour of the ground.

Leamington nearer to completing move

By Paul Newman

A P Leamington, who have to leave their ground at the end of the season, are hoping to reach agreement next month on a move to council-owned premises. The Southern League club want to share the Edmondscote sport stadium, which is currently used for athletics and cycling and is nearer to the town centre than their present ground, The Windmill.

Leamington have played at The Windmill since their formation in 1945, but the owners, Automotive Products, decided earlier this year to sell the ground. Leamington were unable to raise enough money to buy it themselves and are now hoping to dismantle their social club, floodlights and parts of their stands and move them to the Edmondscote stadium. Automotive Products have said they will provide all the necessary transport.

Leamington are confident they can bring the ground up to the standards required by the Southern League but have asked to be given more time to reach agreement or the move; under Southern League rules they risk a heavy fine if they resign from the League after December 31.

Earlier this year Leamington won the Southern League championship but were denied promotion to the Alliance Premier League because their facilities were considered inadequate. Graham Allner, the manager, left in October to join Kidderminster Harriers – ironically the club promoted to the Alliance League in Leamington's place – and the club are now on the fringe of the relegation zone. Jim Watson, the new manager, is having difficulty keeping players at the club because of the uncertainty over the future.

● The Athenian League may continue next season after all. Most of the 21 Athenian clubs have applied to join an expanded Isthmian League, but the Atheniam League say they will consider remaining in existance, albeit outside the new pyramid structure for non-league football, if a "worthwhile" number of their clubs are not admitted.

● Alex Gibson, who was appointed caretaker-manager of Southport last month after the resignation of Russ Perkins, has been given the job on a permanent basis. In four weeks under Gibson's charge the former Football League club have lost only one out of eight matches and have risen from bottom of the Northern Premier League to a mid-table position.

Gibson, aged 29, who was one of more than 40 applicants for the post, played in the Northern Premier League for Mossley and Witton Albion before injury ended his career. He became coach at Witton under Perkins, whom he followed to Southport

Southport were voted out of the Football League less than six years ago and since then have twice been saved from the brink of extinction. They have some of the best facilities in the Northern Premier League.

● Jin Pearson, the player-manager of North Shields (Northern League), has declined an invitation to return as a player to Gateshead (Alliance League) for whom he scored 26 league goals last season.

Match may be held in camera

Sheffield United's New Year's Eve clash with Bolton Wanderers could be played behind closed doors without spectators if local councillors take action over a policing costs dispute. South Yorkshire County Council are lining up against United, who owe the county more than £51,000 for police bills at their Bramall Lane ground.

United say they will not request police to be present at the Bolton game. The chairman of the Police Committee, George Moores, said: "The match could go ahead without spectators. We dont mind." The council are to seek court action to ban supporters unless the club requests sufficient policing.

The third division club have been served with a writ for payment of more than £51,000 owed for policing matches last season and part of this season and so far the bill has not been paid. They have until December 29 to lodge a defence in the High Court against the writ.

The club have asked for policemen to be present at the Boxing Day derby with Rotherham. That match will go ahead. The club chairman, Reg Brealey, has made it clear that they will not request police presence for the game with Bolton and are not prepared to pay for it.

● John Toshack, back in charge at Swansea 53 days after resigning from the second division club, is planning to play again. He said it was "a distinct possibility" that he would play against Cardiff City at Ninian Park on Boxing Day.

● The European football union (UEFA) have fined the Albanian Football Association almost £1,000 for fighting by Albanian players during the European Championship match against Wet Germany in Saarbruecken on November 20. The West German association were fined almost £200 after fireworks were let off during the match.

● A six-man consortium are trying to take over Aldershot. Two former star players and four businessmen are planning an advertising campaign next month to try to persuade shareholders to sell their shares, valued at 25p, for double the going rate. If they secure 51 per cent of the shares they will effectively run the club.

● Alan Dodd, a Wolverhampton defender, is to stay with the club and not move to Derby as part of the fee for Paul Futcher. Wolverhampton are continuing negotiations to sign Futcher in a straight £50,000 deal.

Top of non-league tree

By Paul Newman

The FA Cup victories this season of Telford United Maidstone United and Worcester City over Canon League opponents has underlined the Alliance Premier League's position at the pinnacle of semi-professional football in England and Wales. That status is reflected in the 1983-84 edition of the "Rothmans FA Non-League Football Year Book". (Rothmans and Queen Anne Press, £7.95) which includes comprehensive pen pictures of players and managers at all 22 Alliance clubs.

A useful companion to the year book is "Non League: a history of League and Cup Football" (Bob Barton, £4.95). Barton, who also wrote the book, traces the development of senior football outside the League from its earliest days and combines detailed histories of leagues with lists of competition winners.

There is also a complete record of matches played by non-League clubs in the FA Cup proper since 1925, when the competition was reorganized into its present form, and of all the winners, runners-up and semi-finalists in the FA Amateur Cup FA Trophy and FA Vase competitions.

"Tansley to Wembley" is a personal account of the 1982-83 FA Vase competition.

CYCLING: BRITISH PROFESSIONAL FINDS THE CIRCUIT AGAINST HIM

So boring for Doyle on a roll of honour

By John Wilcockson

Tony Doyle, the racing cyclist, is like a tennis player without a court. He is in the middle of his fourth, and most successful, season of indoor track racing, and yet, in between engagements in Europe, he has nowhere to train.

Britain does not have indoor cycling facilities, other than the former Wembley six-day track, now dilapidated, that sits in a bleak aircraft hanger at Calshot, on the Solent.

"I'm having to do all my training on the rollers," Doyle explained this week as he prepared for a Christmas Day race meeting at Ghent in Belgium. "It's one quick way to boredom," he commented, referring to pedalling his bicycle on a set of training rollers at his home in Ashford, Middlesex.

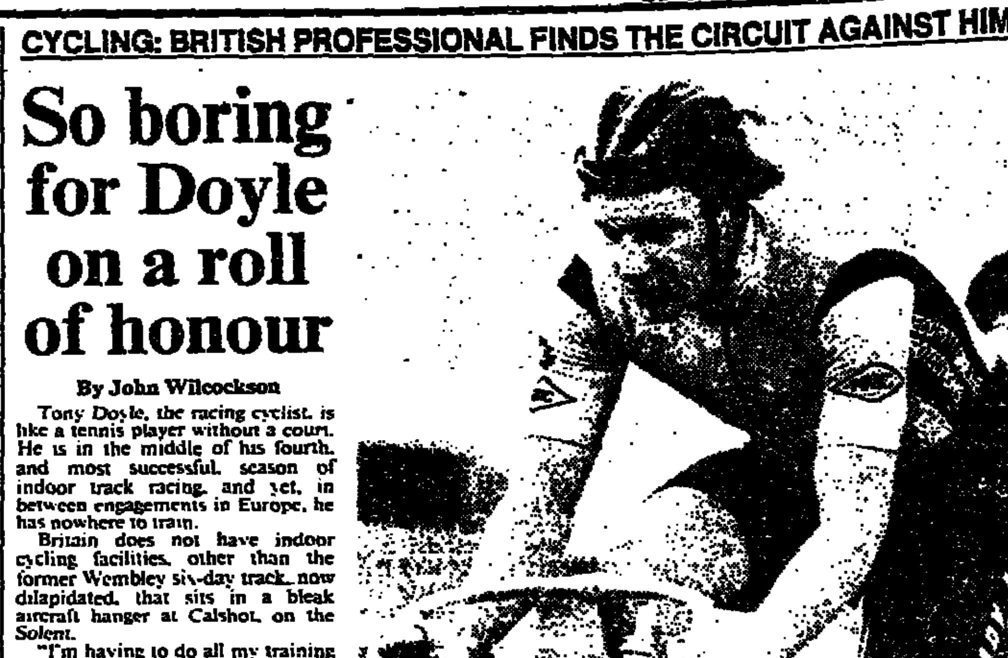
Doyle made history two months ago when he became the first British cyclist to win two European six-day races, and the first for 15 years to win even one. His partner in the Berlin and Dortmund fixtures was Danny Clark, a genial family man from Tasmania, who lives in perpetual winter – at Ghent in his racing season and back in Australia during our summer. Clark fractured his pelvis during the third six-day race of this winter and he is unlikely to reappear in competition until the New Year.

"We could have ruled the roost this year," Clark said. His injuries have severely curtailed his earnings. The top six-day performers are paid as much as £1,500 a day.

In Clark's absence, Doyle has been paired with another Australian, Gary Wiggins, who does not have the same speed or class as Clark. Even so, they have gained three fourth placings in their three six-day efforts, and they earned an excellent second place in the European team championship held in Copenhagen earlier this month.

Their next six-day outing is at Bremen, starting on January 5. "If I wasn't to ride the Ghent and Dortmund races over Christmas, that would have been three weeks without competition," Doyle said.

With no indoor track in this country, Doyle, aged 25, usually travels across London each day to the old fashioned outdoor stadium in Herne Hill. The consequent training sessions, in which he races flat out against a small motor cycle, are only possible when it is dry. Riding the rollers is no subsitute, nor is the daily two-hour training


Doyle: painstaking route to success

ride on the roads of Middlesex and Surrey.

Indoor arenas have been mooted during recent years in Leeds, Birmingham and Edinburgh, and the Sports Council earmarked a substantial grant. But nothing has materialized. It is now hoped that an indoor cycle track will be incorporated in the grandiose developments planned for the Wembley complex.

There is a chance that the London six-day race is to be revived next winter, but this will be raced on a portable track that will remain for just a week in Wembley Arena. A permanent facility is needed if this country is to produce any more Tony Doyles.

Doyle came to prominence after being dropped at the last minute from the Olympic team in Moscow. He turned professional, and immediately won the world professional pursuit championship at Besancon in France. This gave him an entry into the exclusive world of six-day racing, but he had much to learn. Before this season, his best six-day placing had been fifth.

Six-day racing is a spectacular and demanding sport that draws crowds in Europe as big as those for grand prix tennis.At Bremen, the West German organizers expect an increase on the 178,000 spectators who came to watch their race last winter. No wonder thet can pat big money to the star riders.

But it is not all glamour, for the silk-vested idols of the continental circuit. Racing can continue each night until 4am. On Doyle's brief sorties, part of his luggage is a sleeping bag which he rolls out in a cell-sized room in each velodrome basement, shared with another rider. "I bet McEnroe or Connors wouldn't put up with conditions like these," he said. Nor would they be likely to stay on top of their sport without a tennis court.

Pedalling for more prizes

The seventh Sealink international pro-am cycle race, which begins in Skelmersdale on April 9, is boosted by an overall 41 per cent increase in cash prizes. The total prize money now available for the 60 riders in 10 teams has been increased from £2,456 to £3,724.

The extra incentive coincides with the toughest Sealink so far with a total of 27 hill climbs in te 509 miles, nine more than this year and includes Yorkshire's Holme Moss, The Cat and Fiddle, and Snake Pass in Derbyshire.

Daily prizes have been increased on hill climbs, with first category winners collecting £20 each, and the overall winner when the race ends in Sheffield on April 14 picking up prizes valued at £500, an increase of £150.

RACKETS


Popplewell: one mistake too many

Superlative Spurling

By William Stephens

The players of Tonbridge School produced a superlative display in the semi-final round of the H. K. Foster Cup yesterda at Queen's Club. In a gripping match worthy of a final, Adrian Spurling, the first seed, faced imminent dfeat by the fourth seed, Ruprt Owne-Browne, also of Tonbridge. However, Spurling found the depth of character to wrest back the initiative and win 11-15, 17-15, 15-10, 15-9.

Obviously nervous, Spurling, seemed at the outset mesmerized by the occasion, but Owen-Browne began in a businesslike manner. Composed, deliberate and aggressive, he set a cracking pace, particularly with his ruthless double-handed backhand which generated powerful shots even off the back foot.

Dominating by effective serving, double-handed from the right side, and with a precise second service, he seemed to be heading for victory. But then, when a game to love and 11-2 down, Spurling found a new resolve. He fought his way back to 6-12 and the game became critically balanced

At 11-12 Owen Browne's methodical footwork began to freeze; at 14-14 he chose set to three and lost 3-1.

The Etonian, Alan Giddins, the second seed, used his double handed backhand to good effect as he reached the final by defeating the Radleian, Edmund Popplewell, 15-6, 10-15, 15-5, 6-15, 15-4 in a match of changing fates dependent on service. Popplewell mingled some glorious strokes with unforced errors through occasional casual footwork.

A younger Owen-Browne, James, a left-hander, won the Incledon-Webber Colts Cup, defeating Robert Bruce of Wellington 15-10, 15-2, 15-9, although Bruce gave a good account of himself in the rallies.

IN BRIEF

Bugner on brink of return

Joe Bugner will return to the ring next month in Denmark, if the British Boxing Board of Control lift their ban on him. Bugner will fight in Randers on a a bill promoted by Mogen Palle, in association with Frank Warren. The bout will take place on January 13, against an opponent who has yet to be named, and Bugner will jointly top the bill, with the undefeated heavyweight, Steffen Tangsted.

Bugner hopes to be given the all-clear by the board on January 11. He was suspended after fighting Marvis Frazier without permission.

YACHTING: The backer, designer and captain of the America's Cup winner, Australia II, will attend the opening of the French boat show in Paris, on January 13. Alan Bond, Ben Lexcen and John Bertrand will be guests of honour.

BOWLS: David Bryant, the sport's most famous name, and Norma Shaw, the women's world outdoor singles champion, will take part in the Regalgrene short mat championship in Stockport, on Sunday, January 22.

OLYMPIC GAMES: The IOC president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, said yesterday he was very confident that the Soviet Union would compete at Los Angeles next year. His confidence results from a long meeting with Marat Oramov, president of the Soviet Union's national Olympic committee.

CRICKET: Roger Tolchard, sacked by Leicestershire, is returning to his former school, Malvern, in April to help with the coaching of ricket and rackets. He has been succeeded as Leicestershire captain by David Gower.

● In keeping with the annual tradition, Noel Bennett's XI are to play the Yule Logs at Preston Park, Brighton, on Christmas Day. The match starts at 10 am and 20 overs for each side will be played.

ATHLETICS – Jarmila Kratochvilova of Czechoslovakia has been voted best woman athlete of the year by an international jury appointed by the athletics magazine Track and Field News. Miss Kratochvilova, aged 32, was selected for her gold medal performances in the 400m and 800m in the world athletics championships in Helsinki, and defeated Mary Decker of the United States, winner of the 1500m and 3,000m in Helsinki.

● Malaysia and Thailand, who are in the running for final places in the 1984 Olympic tournament, may be barred from qualifying after playing in an unlicensed event.

BADMINTON

Champion is omitted

By Iain Mackenzie

Alison Fulton, the Scottish women's champion, who retained the title at Meadowbank just two weeks ago, is now not considered good enough to appear for Scotland. She was not named in any of the three sided announced yesterday to meet England in Bishopbriggs on January 26, and Canada in Aberdeen on January 30 and again in Lurgan on February 1.

Mrs Fulton was aggrieved yesterday that her place in the first two matches has gone to her rival, Pamela Hamilton, she beat Miss Hamilton in both the 1982 and 1983 national finals. Jenny Allen has surprisingly been brought in at Lurgan for her first senior singles honour.

TEAMS: Men's singles: 1, A White (Kilmarnock); 2, K Middlemiss (Edinburgh). Ladies singles: P Hamilton (Guildford). Men's doubles: W Gilliland (Romford) and D Travers (Glasgow); White and I Pringle (Paisley). Women's doubles: Hamilton and J Allen (Edinburgh). Mixed doubles: Gilliland and C Heatly (Edinburgh).

Showdown sought

Lyn Tatham, the director of the Sports Council for Wales, has written to the RU, to request an early meeting on the issue of their support for matches against South African teams. The council are firmly behind the Gleneagles agreement, which precludes any involvement with sport in South Africa, so long as the policy of apartheid remains in force there.

"Whilst the council respects the autonomy of all governing bodies of sport in Wales, we will urge the WRU to have consideration for the harm which its action may cause to Welsh competitors in international events of this kinds", Mr Tatham said.

The South African youth team, undertaking a six-match tour of Wales, failed to start their first match, against a combined Bridgend and Aberavon side on Wednesday night, because the pitch was waterlogged.

● Prideaux Boy, 25-1 runner-up to Admiral's Cup at Ascot on Saturday, will run next in the L'Oreal Handicap Hurdle at Newbury on New Year's Eve.

RUGBY UNION

Yorkshire find success in extremities

By Michael Stevenson

Yorkshire 18 group	18
Cumbria 18 group	0

Yorkshire 18 group conquered the conditions and a spirited but rather raw Cumbria side at Ilkley yesterday. The game was choked with handling mistakes, inevitable in the appalling conditions, before Yorkshire realized that, on the day, boots were as important as hands.

Yorkshire may well shake down into a very good side. Yesterday it was very hard to assess them realistically. There was no mistaking the talent of the Cumbria scrum half, Waite, however, and his partner, Bevan, though rather ungainly, did many things. Generally Cumbria's job was to tackle and keep on tackling which they did with great courage.

An early break by Priestly for Yorkshire, which came to nothing, was symptomatic of their early problems. Bogged down by the mud, their exciting backs lost several fine chances trhough indifferent backing up or selfishness on the part of the ball carrier.

McMaw for Yorkshire and Birkett for the visitors both missed a couple of penalties and the stalemate was maintained until a searing break by Carling ended through a superb tackle by Foster; swift possession was won and Tunningley took Gillepsie's pass to score wide out. McMaw converted.

A fine break by Waite ended without the try it might have created and it was Yorkshire who went further ahead shortly after the interval when Wilby caught cleanly in the line-out almost on the Yorkshire line and fell over to score. A glorious try followed when Priestly broke on the crash, fed Carling and Tether took Carling's pass and returned the compliment for Carling to score under the posts.

Yorkshire's last score followed a crisp break by Hopkinson which was developed enterprisingly by the Yorkshire hooker, Whitehurst. He gave Moore the scoring pass, by Cunningley once again missed the kick in front of the posts.

YORKSHIRE: An Tunningley (QEGS Wakefield); J Scrimshaw (Heath GS), W Carling (Sedbergh), J Priestly (Bradford GS), P Shearman (John Smeaton HS); K Gillespie (Colne Valley HS), T McMaw (Harrogate GS); J Wells (Pocklington), P Whitehurst (Hall Cross), S Little (Hymers College), J Hopkinson (Giggleswick), J Moore (Bradford GS), J Peart (Sedbergh), D Tether (King Edward VII), J Wilby (QEGS Wakefield).
CUMBRIA: S Foster (St Bee's); P Dalzell (St Bee's), M Birkett (Whitehaven GS), J Hodgson (St Bee's), P Ainsworth (St Bee's), R Bevan and C Waite (Cockermouth GS); I Watters (William Howard), R Bayley (Heversham), I Sewell (Austin Friars), D Keddie (Kirby Kendal), I Robertson (Keswick), A Davis (Keswick), R Holt (QE Kirby Lonsdale), R Ellis (QE Kirby Lonsdale).

Scotland lose another fixture

Scottish schoolboy rugby has suffered a further setback, following the postponement of yesterday's match with the French Schools at Kelso, owing to the impecuniosity of the French, Iain Mackenzie writes. The call-off comes on top of the decision not to play the annual England-Scotland game this season, because of indecision in the English Schools RFU about dates.

Scotland are now left with only two fixtures, against Wales in Wrexham on January 7, and against Ireland in Glasgow on April 7. Both matches are confirmed, but Archie MacIntyre, the SSRFU secretary, said yesterday that the loss of British and French games was "a grievous disappointment".

"France simply could afford the trip, and England had problems over dates," he said. "I hope and believe this is a temporary situation. Next year, we should all be back to near normal, playing each other." One difficulty, he said was fitting in fixtures during the school holidays.

TENNIS

Cup match for Telford

The West Midlands Tennis and Racquet Centre at Telford, which was opened last summer, will be the venue for Britain's Davis Cup match against Italy from February 24 to 26 next year. The centre hosted the inaugural Refuge Assurance national championships.

This will be the first Davis Cup tie in the Midlands since 1969 when West Germany played in Birmingham. There will be seating for about 2,500 spectators and Italian supporters have already begun booking accomodation in the Telford area.

Paul Hutchins, Britain's national team manager, said: "It is important that our tennis public turns out in numbers to counteract the support the Italians are bound to receive. Although this is a very difficult tie I am optimistic we can do well - providing I can field our best team."

The last time the countries met, in 1981, Britain won 3-2 at Brighton.

Fraser has problems

Melbourne (Reuter) – Pat Cash's volatile temperament caused the Australian captain, Neale Fraser, more problems yesterday, four days before the Davis Cup final against Sweden.

On Wednesday Fraser said that John Fitzgerald's suddon loss of confidence and form was worrying him as the squad settled down to solid match practice. Yesterday during training Cash slammed tennis balls high into the Kooyong Stadium, and at one stage his racket landed in the fourth row of grandstand seats after bouncing off the court.

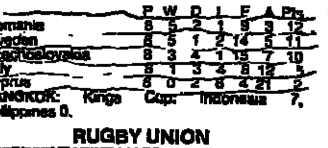
Cash, aged 18, had just lost the second set of a practice match to Fitzgerald when he clashed with Fraser and stormed off court. Asked whether Cash's temperament was becoming problem for him, Fraser said: "It appears that way. The tension can be a good and a bad sign.

● The following players, the leading 12 in the tennis Grand Prix, have qualified for the Masters tournament in New York from January 10 to 15: 1, Wilander (Swe); 2, I Lendl (Cz); 3, J McEnroe (US); 4, J Connors (US); 5, Y Noah (Fr); 6, J Arias (US); 7, J Higueras (Sp); 8, A Gomez (Ecu); 9, J L Clerc (Arg); 10, E Teltscher (US); 11, T Smid (Cz); 12, J Kriek (US).

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION: Detroit Pistons 118, Cleveland Cavaliers 112; Boston Celtics 107, Atlanta Hawks 98; Philadelphia 76ers 122, San Antonio Spurs 121; Utah Jazz 133, Indiana Pacers 115; Portland Trail Blazers 116, Phoenix Suns 112; San Diego Clippers 128, Houston Rockets 97.

FOOTBALL
EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Group Five: Italy 3, Cyprus 1



	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Romania	8	5	2	1	9	3	12
Sweden	8	5	1	2	14	5	11
Czechoslovakia	8	3	4	1	15	7	10
Italy	8	1	3	4	6	12	5
Cyprus	8	0	2	6	4	21	2

BANGKOK: Kings Cup: Indonesia 7, Philippines 0.

RUGBY UNION
REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Royal Navy 31, Combined London OB 4.

FIXTURES

RUGBY UNION: Bath v Pontypool (7.15); Bristol v Glamorgan W (7.15); Orrell v Bedford (2.30).
RACKETS: Public Schools singles championship (Queen's Club, West Kensington, (9am).

Britain's leading trainer wraps himself in a Husky-coated cocoon

Now is the high season of Winter

It would be difficult to imagine two more contrasting figures than Fred Winter and Michael Dickinson as they continue their relentless battle for the title of champion trainer. Sporting a trendy hairdo and a deep tan, Dickenson has been cock of the walk for the past two seasons. The 33-year-old perfectionist never wears a hat and seldom goes racing, preferring to supervise operations from his Yorkshire headquarters.

Winter, on the other hand, still clearly relishes the cut-and-thrust of his days on the track. The 57-year-old former champion trainer and paratrooper hunches his shoulders like a wary and aggressive terrier as he stands in the unsaddling enclosure waiting to greet his winners. On cold days the collar of his tweed Husky coat is turned up to protect its wearer against the elements; and from under his Trilby hat his piercing but humorous eyes are always ready to parry the questions from us news-hungry hacks.

After undergoing a heart attack three years ago, Winter has to husband his physical and mental resources. As Boxing Day approaches, and with it the end of the first half of the season, he is still leading trainer in terms of prize money earned, just ahead of his arch rival. And a great deal will hang in the balance as Winter's and Dickinson's challengers go down to the start of the King George VI Steeplechase at Kempton Park.

Formidable

Any conversation, however brief, with this formidable character is like a showdown and should not be approached lightly. Acknowledging his famous abruptness, he says: "I'm afraid I hate talking to people and I always will. I dread that moment when someone catches my eye and I know that they've got something to say to me." Winter is like Dick Hern in this respect; both dislike being approached on the racecourse as it disturbs their concentration.


Winter as trainer

John Winter, himself a trainer on the flat at Newmarket, recognized these qualities of singlemindedness and dedication in his brother at an early stage. "I've seen the same thing in other top men in all walks of life," he says. "They move about in a sort of cocoon, isolated from other people."

Winter's first step along his lonely and incomparably successful road was taken at Salisbury on May 14, 1940, when he rode his first winner on Tam O'Shanter at the age of 13. During the war he worked in a factory and then went into the Army. "That was good enough for Fred," his brother says. "He had to join the paratroopers and become an officer too, that was his way. He set himself objectives. When the war finished he had to start over fences, because he had become too heavy for the Flat. He wasn't a natural. He just made himself do it." His first victory over fences came on Carton at Windsor on December 27, 1947.

Recovery

Then followed a fall at Wye which nearly put a premature end to his career. "Fred broke three vertebrae and was out for the rest of the season. As soon as he was on the road to recovery he started building up his strength again with exercises. Nothing ever got the better of him."

During the next 17 years Winter's strength and determination carried him to unforgettable peaks, which held a whole generation spellbound. He had 4,298 rides in Britain, France, Ireland and the United States covering about 7,000 miles over fences and hurdles. He had 319 falls to counter-balance his 929 winners. He finished in the money no fewer than 2,015 times, which represents a proportion of 47 per cent win and place horses to rides undertaken, a dramatic illustration of his will to persevere, even when the cause seemed hopeless.

His principal retainer was for another legendary character, Ryan Price, for whom he won three champion hurdles, on Clair Soleil, Fare Time and Eborneezer.

Not only did the punters always get a square deal with Winter, they also watched history being made as, with legs and thighs locked motionless against his horse's sides, he rode one big race winner after another, with those powerful shoulders driving relentlessly downwards and forwards through the fulcrum. It may not have been stylish but it was effective.

He rode two Gold Cup winners on his favourite racecourse, Cheltenham, in consecutive seasons on Saffron Tartan and Mandarin. Saffron Tartan barely stayed three and a quarter miles and the absurd cliche, "Winter literally lifted his exhausted mount past the post," has never seemed more appropriate than on that March afternoon as the pair resisted the challenge of the jockey's bosom friend and rival, Dave Dick, on Pas Seul.

There were also two Grand National triumphs on Sundew in 1957 and Kilmore in 1962. "They were two entirely different types," he remembers. "You had to leave Sundew alone to make his own arrangements. The previous season I made him fall by trying to tell him what to do when he was in the lead at Bechers the second time round."

Winter describes Mandarin as "the bravest horse I've ever known." The sweltering Parisian crowd saluted the same quality in the man as well as in the horse after Winter had ridden Mrs Peggy Hennessy's gallant bay to that incredible victory in the Grand Steeple-chase de Paris in 1959. Few watchers knew at the time that Mandarin's bit had broken at the fourth fence and that his jockey had steered his way all around Auteuil's figure of eight by strength of leg and balance alone.

Just before he retired from the saddle Winter rode three winners in an afternoon at Newbury. On his return to the weighing-room his fellow jockeys rose spontaneously to their feet and cheered him to the echo. "I've never seen such a sight and never expect to see it again," John Oaksey, the former amateur rider turned journalist and television commentator, says.

Refused a job as a starter, Winter began to train. His first campaign was at Uplands, Lambourn, with only eight horses. Quick success sent the blood racing. Jay Trump, his first ever winner – at Sandown on Oct 21, 1964 – went on to beat Freddie in that close finish to the National the following spring.

By the end of the season he had won 25 races with 13 horses. His earnings for his owners (£32,190) were only slightly less than those of the leading trainer, Peter Cazalet, who had won £36,153.

Suddeness

Winter still wonders at the suddeness of it all. "There is so much chance in life. I was riding in the States when I was introduced to Phylis Mills. She is Mimi Abel-Smith's sister. And through her my name was put up to Mary Stephenson, Jay Trump's owner. And that's how the horse and Tommy Smith came to Lambourn."

Winter has been champion trainer seven times. The names of such giants as Crisp, Midnight Court, Pendil, Bula, Lanzarote and Killiney pay tribute enough to the trainer's mastery of his craft. Bula and the ill-fated Lanzarote won three champion hurdles between them.


Winter as jockey: a champion in the saddle

The memory of Crisp's narrow failure to give Red Rum 23lbs in the Grand National is still vivid as it was in 1973. Then there were the spring-heeled Pendil's twin triumphs in the King George VI Steeplechase. Midnight Court was also a high class chaser when he sprinted home seven lengths clear of Brown Lad in the 1978 Cheltenham Gold Cup. Despite the recent drought, the trainer has enjoyed a golden autumn.

Brown Chamberlin's easy victory in the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup and Fifty Dollars More's gallant defeat of The Tsarevich in the Kennedy Construction Gold Cup has raised stable hopes that one of the pair can give Winter his third training triumph in the King George VI. But Wayward Lad, Bregawn and The Mighty Mac will make a formidable trio of opponents as Dickinson attempts to win the race for the fifth consecutive time.

Winter is making no forecast about the result. "My horses are well and so, I'm sure, are Michael's. I'm looking forward to crossing swords at Kempton. May the best man win. What is more important, may the best horse win."

Indignant

When I went into the kitchen for breakfast at Uplands recently, the trainer's parrot gave a squawk of horror and disappeared underneath the table. "Daisy doesn't like strangers very much," Di Winter, said, as she retrieved the indignant bird and returned her to her cage. "But she likes Fred. Daisy's very fond of Fred."

As Daisy appears to be a sound judge of character, it might be best to let this perspicacious bird speak the last word on behalf of those who admire, respect and venerate Fred Winter, OBE.

Michael Seely

SKIING

Miss Wenzel quick to add another World Cup victory

Haus, Austria (Agencies) – Hanni Wenzel, of Liechtenstein, won her second successive women's Alpine World Cup event, with a narrow victory in the giant slalom here yesterday, to add to her first-ever downhill win on Wednesday. Her time of 2min 09.46sec over the two legs was a mere eleven hundredths of a second faster than the runner-up, Maria Epple, of West Germany. Christin Cooper, of the United States, was third in 2:09.65.

Miss Wenzel set up her victory in the last World Cup race before the end-of-year break by registering the fastest time in the first leg, albeit only two hundredths of a second faster than Erika Hess, of Switzerland. The 1980 Olympic gold medallist, banned from the winter Olympics in Sarajevo next February, was fourth in the second leg, while Miss Hess could finish no higher than fifth.

Miss Hess, on 135 points, retains the overall World Cup lead, and Miss Epple's elder sister, Irene, is second with 121, but Miss Wenzel's two victories have left her hot on the heels of the leaders, with 97 points.

Miss Epple has only recently returned to the pistes after a long illness, and her second place produced her first World Cup points of the season.

While Miss Hess, who won the season's first giant slalom, in Val D'Isere two weeks ago, continued to look out of form, Miss Wenzel went ahead of her in the giant slalom World Cup standings. The Liechtenstein skier leads with 40 points, from Miss Hess on 37

Judging by current performances, Miss Wenzel, who missed much of last season through injury, will sweep all before her, when the World Cup resumes as Pfronten, in West Germany, on January 7.

● The condition of the Hungarian skier, Csilla Apjok, aged 17, who was critically injured in a pre-race downhill practice run here on Wednesday, has stabilized.

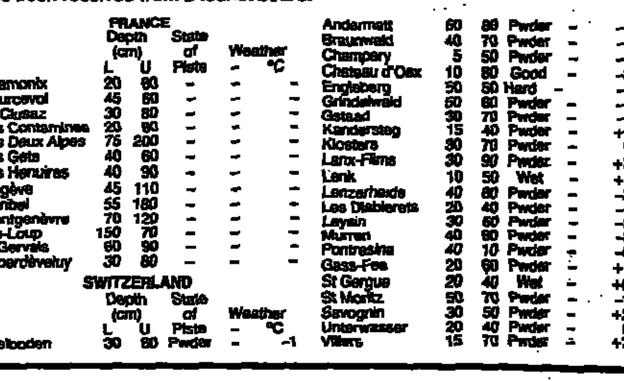
RESULTS: 1, H Wenzel (Liech), 2min, 9.46sec; 2, M Epple WG), 2:09.57; 3, C Cooper (US), 2:09.65; 4, E Hess (Switz), 2:09.74; 5, I Epple (WG), 2:09.98; 6, T McKinney (US), 2:10.12; 7, P Pelen (Fra), 2:10.32; 8, O Charvatova (Cz), 2:11.65; 9, M Figini (Switz), 2:11.78; 10, D Zini (It), 2:12.15; 11, E Kirchler (Austria), 2:12.34; 12, M Walliser (Switz), 2:12.78; 13, B Fernandez Ochoa (Sp), 2:12.79; 14, A-F Rey (Fra), 2:12.90; 15 F Serrat (Fra), 2:13.16. Overall: 1, Wenzel, 40pts; 2, Hess, 37; 3, Pelen, 29; 4, McKinney (US), 22; 5, I Epple, 21; 6, M Epple, 20; 7, Charvatova, 17; 8, Figini, 15; 9, Kirchler and Cooper, 12. World Cup: 1, Hess, 135pts; 2, I Epple, 121; 3, Wenzel, 97; 4, Walliser, 70; 5, Charvatova, 66; 6, T McKinney, 59; 7, Cooper, 49; 8, L Söllkner (Austria), 47; 9, R Steiner (Austria), 47; 9, R Steiner (Austria) and M Tlalka (Pol), 45.


Miss Wenzel: narrow win

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off Piste	Runs to resort	Weather (5 pm)	°C
Arosa	55	70	Good	Powder	Good	Cloudy	-3
Avoriaz	76	80	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	-4
Good skiing conditions							
Grindelwald	10	40	Fair	Powder	Closed	Fine	-1
New snow on worn base							
Igls	5	80	Worn	Powder	Poor	Cloudy	+1
Slush on lower slopes							
Isola	80	145	Good	Powder	Good	Fine	-3
New snow on good base							
Kitzbühel	15	70	Good	Fair	Fair	Snow	+1
Wet snow on lower slopes							
La Plagne	122	207	Good	Powder	Good	Fine	-5
Excellent conditions							
Murren	50	65	Good	Powder	Good	Fine	-3
Powder on hard base							
Seefeld	35	700	Fair	Powder	Fair	Snow	+2
Powder on hard base							
Tignes	130	150	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	-3
New snow on good base							

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following report has been received from a tourist board:



FRANCE

	Depth (cm) L	U	State of Piste	Weather	°C
Chamonix	20	80	-	-	-
Courcevel	45	80	-	-	-
La Clusaz	30	80	-	-	-
Les Contamines	20	80	-	-	-
Les Deux Alpes	75	200	-	-	-
Les Gets	40	60	-	-	-
Les Henuires	40	90	-	-	-
Megève	45	110	-	-	-
Méribel	55	180	-	-	-
Montgenèvre	70	120	-	-	-
Pra-Loup	150	70	-	-	-
St Gervais	60	90	-	-	-
Superdèvoluy	30	80	-	-	-

SWITZERLAND

	Depth (cm) L	U	State of Piste	Weather	°C
Adelboden	30	80	Pwder	-	-1
Andermatt	60	80	Pwder	-	-2
Braunwald	40	70	Pwder	-	-1
Champery	5	50	Pwder	-	-7
Chateau d'Oex	10	80	Good	-	-3
Engleberg	50	50	Hard	-	-1
Grindelwald	60	60	Pwder	-	-1
Gstaad	30	70	Pwder	-	-2
Kandersteg	15	40	Pwder	-	+1
Klosters	30	70	Pwder	-	0
Larx-Flims	30	90	Pwder	-	+2
Lenk	10	50	Wet	-	+1
Lenzerheide	40	80	Pwder	-	-2
Les Diablerets	20	40	Pwder	-	-1
Leysin	30	60	Pwder	-	-2
Murren	40	60	Pwder	-	-3
Pontresina	40	10	Pwder	-	-6
Saas-Fee	20	60	Pwder	-	+1
St Gergue	20	40	Wet	-	+0
St Moritz	50	70	Pwder	-	-1
Savognin	30	50	Pwder	-	+2
Unterwasser	20	40	Pwder	-	0
Villars	15	70	Pwder	-	+3

BOOK REVIEWS

An objective and humorous tale of the Lions trail

By David Hands

The unworthy thought comes to mind after poring through four books written about the 1983 British Lions tour to New Zealand that if an unsuccessful tour attracts so many words, what will a successful tour bring. The statistics of the tour are still fresh in the mind; it received more media attention than any previous Lions trip yet the curious thing is that, at the end of it all, no personalities emerged.

There may be excellent reasons for this. Willie-John McBride, the tour manager, had to sanction interviews so access to players may not have been all that could have been wished. It was the hardest schedule ant touring team to New Zealand has yet faced and it was McBride's own complaint that the players had little chance to see the country. Yet I can hardly believe that the tour did not contain its crop of characters and their doings might have leavened the story of their rugby travels. Or are tours too serious to be fun any more?

Perhaps some of the authors were too busy with their own pre-conceptions of the tour to worry with personalities. For an objective view, however, I would not hesitate to recommend *On The Lions' Trail* (Rugby Press Ltd, Auckland), written by Don Cameron, rugby correspondent of the *New Zealand Herald*. To see ourselves as others see us...Cameron had no axe to grind, he tells his tale with humour and thoughtfulness and a sense of regret that these Lions should have left little more behind them than memories of Ollir Campbell's boot.

His book also contains an instructive interview with David Lord, he of the professional circus, and some outstanding colour photography. There is another instructive interview in *The Lions in Winter* by Karl Johnston (George Allen and Unwin, £7.95), this time with Greg McGee, a junior All Black who turned his back on the game and became a playwright. McGee expressed the opinion to Johnston that the order in New Zealand was changing, where rugby was no longer so dominating a factor as once it was.

Johnston, rugby correspondent of the *Irish Press*, writes with charm and an admirable whimsy – he, I am sure, was determined to extract some fun from the tour – and does his utmost to be objective about the Irish contribution to the party which aroused the ire of so many of his English colleagues. He defends the selection as captain and player of Ciaran Fitzgerald but it is interesting that in none of the books does Fitzgerald emerge to hold the stage. Always, he seems under the long shadow cast by McBride.

It is Fitzgerald who occupies the mind of Ian Robertson, one of four contributors to *Lions v All Blacks '83: Two sides To The Argument* by Robertson, Bill Beaumont, Terry McLean and Andy Dalton (Stanley Paul, £6.95). The conception of this book is different, in its desire to bring the opposing sides together between two covers, but effectively it is the acerbic Robertson and the grand old man of New Zealand rugby writing, McLean, whom readers of this paper may remember with affection.


Fitzgerald: selection as British Lions captain is defended

If blame is to be attributed – and it is sprayed around in this book – it should be placed back home, where players do not learn many of the basics early enough and consequently grow up bearing little comparison with the greats of yesteryear so fondly, but often irrelevantly, remembered.

The science applied to rugby football during the seventies makes it that much harder to be good. But no player deserves the dissection that Fitzgerald has received, whatever his supposed inadequacies. It was not his fault the tour failed and I have doubt that, as a player, he could have contributed any more than he did.

If ever a book is written called Rural Rides through Rugby, David Frost will be the man to write it. *The Guardian's* rugby correspondent looks benignly upon the tour in *Lions '83* (Pelham Books, £8.95), with a slight air of puzzlement that it all went wrong. It is the offbeat asides which lend Frost's book character and it is only a shame that his deadline left him too little time to make a more definitive judgment.

It was mere coincidence that, during the week *Welsh Rugby Scrapbook* (Souvenir Press Ltd, £8.95 hard cover, £5.95 soft cover) by Gerald Davies arrived for review, another famous Welshman, Wynford Vaughan Thomas, joined forces with Davies to describe the national pastime in Wales as talking. There is nothing like hearing Welshmen talk, with passion and power, about anything under the sun and few things move them more than rugby.

As Davies remarks, conjecture is all in rugby. Two people watching the same game can happily leave the ground with differing impressions of what has happened. A game that leaves one onlooker spellbound can bore the pants off another. Davies on rugby is never boring.

This book follows in a series of scrapbooks from the same publisher and Davies flits like a honeybee among the 1970s, a golden period in which he played a leading role. Sometimes, reading a Davies match report, it is easy to appreciate that behind each word, 20 more are itching to get out. Davies offers a genuine insight to the Welsh "feel" for rugby and writes cogently of the change in the game's face during 1971 when it took on the "trappings and paraphernalia of a professional sport".

A belated thought on the *Rothmans Rugby Yearbook 1983-84* (Queen Anne Press, £10.95 hard cover, £6.95 soft cover), under a new editor, Steve Jones, now following his much-respected predecessor, Vivian Jenkins, at *The Sunday Times*. I am delighted to see two major innovations: much, if not all, of the detail of the Lions tour to New Zealand ast summer (which previous volumes had to reserve for the next season but one) and a genuine acknowledgment of the developing nations. This latter comes by way of a detailed look at last season's FIRA tournament and a study of the Cathay Pacific Hongkong Bank world sevens. No game is an island...

The pointless rule of the percentage men and their decimal points

Public surveys are a public nuisance

You know those useless public surveys that are conducted from time to time - the ones telling you, for instance, that fewer women eat chocolate biscuits now than 25 years ago, that the spaniel is most popular breed of dog with the middle classes, or that bowler hats are more frequently seen in the City of London than anywhere else in England. Such surveys have not yet reached sport, but they will, and when they do they are sure to become an industry.

Let me anticipate some typical specimens so that fewer of you will be taken in to the extent of believing them to matter or, what is worse, of trying to conduct one yourself.

Average attendance at Football League matches get a regular airing. If they are up, everybody cheers. If they are down, everybody says the game is dying.

But suppose that a survey-monger comes along and splits the attendances into social division. Only then will we learn what we never suspected before: that bank managers prefer sitting in the stand to standing on the terraces, that shorthand typists are preponderant among women supporters, that working men who do the pools would not been seen dead at matches - and so on.

Eating habits could also come under scrutiny. Nobody has yet had the wit to calculate how many slices of currant cake are eaten and cups of tea drunk at county cricket matches during an average season. When the day of the survey dawns, those figures, too will be revealed and analysed down to the last decimal point for deeper meaning.

Travel is a much larger, unexplored country. It is integral to sport. We love our away-days, our special trains, our coach excursions, our supporters club outings, with beer and songs. Harmless fun, all of it, provided the hooligans – themselves born survey-fodder – are absent.

But perhaps there is more to it than harmless fun. Quick – call in the survey man. Put him on a pedestal, like a doctor or a television wiseacre. Ask his opinion, humbly, fearfully. What does he read in the tea leaves? Is it serious?

Of course it is, but not, he is glad to say, fatal. The gist of his conclusions is that men like to travel to away games not merely because they want to support their team – that, psychologically speaking, is a secondary reason – but because man is a restless animal, ever hungry for novelty and adventure. In the old days he sought the Northwest Passage, the source of the Amazon, the New World. Lacking such opportunities, his modern urban equivalent buys a return ticket to Manchester Piccadilly.

If there is one thing the survey people esteem above any other, it is a percentage.

More than 55 per cent of all croquet players, they might assert, are either clergymen or retired generals. Thirty-eight per cent of rugby players went to a public school. The divorce rate is higher (fill in your own percentage here) among discuss throwers than among marathon runners. Sixty-three per cent of those who play bowls are on a pension, compared with 99.9 per cent 30 years ago.

My private survey of the gentlemen who conduct surveys indicates that 100 per cent of them would be better employed sweeping the roads.

Gordon Allan

SPORTS AWARDS

Prizes for Jacklin and Cram

By Our Sports Staff

Tony Jacklin has been named as the White Horse Whisky golf personality for 1983, in recognition of his achievement as Ryder Cup captain in Florida last October.

Jacklin was a narrow winner of the award, which is decided by the committee of the Association of Golf Writers. He just beat Nick Faldo, a mainstay of Europe's Ryder Cup squad, winner of five tournaments and the first man to pass £100,000 winnings in a season.

The choice is a surprise one for, earlier this week, in a poll of all the membership, Faldo was voted winner of the golf writers' trophy, with Severiano Ballesteros runner-up. Jacklin, plus the European Ryder Cup team, finished third.

Jacklin came within a whisker of inspiring his men to beat the United States of their own territory for the first time. He is certain to be named as captain for the next match, at the Belfry, in 1985.

"I have been so busy down here that I haven't had time to think about the Ryder Cup, but this award has brought all the wonderful memories flooding back. Everything was perfectly right over there, except for one thing – we lost by one point."

He will be presented with the award, and a cheque for £2,500, at a ceremony early in the new year.

Steve Cram, the world, European and Commonwealth 1500 metres champion, had collected another honour. He has been awarded the C N Jackson Memorial Cup, awarded by the Amateur Athletic Association to the outstanding athlete of the year.

Other honours announced by the AAA yesterday were:

Harvey Memorial Cup for the best AAA champion of the year, Darren Clarke (Australia), 400 metres in 45.05sec; Pepsi-Cola award to the UK championships, Donovan Reid (Shaftesbury Harriers), 100 metres 10.45 sec; John Thomson award for the best high hurdles performance in the UK, Tonie Campbell (US), 13.41sec; Carborundum Golden Jubilee Trophy for the best track performance in the championships, Peter Elliott (Rotherham Harriers), 800 metres, 1min 45.64sec; W J Pepper Trophy for the best field performance in the championships, Leo Williams (US), High Jump, 2.29 metres; Philips Trophy for the best performance in the AAA indoor championships, Ainsley Bennett (Birchfield Harriers), 400 metres, 47.06sec.

Lincoln Asquith (Birchfield Harriers) won two awards: The George Hogsflesh Trophy for the best junior athlete, he won the European junior 100 metres title – and the Joe Turner Trophy for his 100 metres win in 10.29sec in the AAA junior championships. The Jack Crump Trophy for the best youth athlete went to Adeoye Mafe (London Irish AC) for his 200 metres in 20.92 seconds.

● New York (Reuter) – The American runner, Mary Decker, has been named sportsperson of the year in a poll organized by *Sports Illustrated* magazine. Decker, who won both the 1,500 metres and 3,000 metres events at the first World Championships in Helsinki earlier this year, is only the third woman to win the award. The others were tennis players Billie-Jean King and Chris Evert Lloyd.

RACING

Smith's Man leaves Mrs Pitman buoyant

Jenny Pitman, after saddling Smith's Man to make a winning first appearance over fences in the Ellastone Novices chase at Uttoxeter yesterday was brimming with confidence for a second successive Welsh National triumph on Tuesday. She reported both last year's narrow winner, Corbiere, and Burrough Hill Lad in peak condition for the big Chepstow chase.

Smith's Man justified Mrs Pitman's opinion that he would develop into a useful chaser when he took the measure of The Welder the 11-10 favourite at the second last fence and went on to score by three lengths from Gamble Halll. "I bought Smith's Man, who is related to Dramatist, for 2,800 guineas at Doncaster sales last summer. He has been plagued by small splints down his tendon bone, but he is a big strong horse and I knew that he went over two and a half miles and the ground was to his liking, he would win over fences," she said.

It was a bad meeting for backers, with every favourite beaten, but women trainers fared well with three winners. Sarah Jennings, in her second season as a permit holder, won for the third time under rules with Garrick Swaine, who after jumping into the lead at the third fence, made the rest of the running to easily land the Tutbury Conditional Handicap Chase.

Mercy Rimmell won the Farley Handicap Chase with Sir John Hanmer's Royal Mere, who handled the soft ground well to score by four lengths from Scottish Bar and Captain Shadow.

STATE OF GOING: Monday: Sedgefield, good to soft; Huntingdon, good; Wetherby, good to soft; Wincanton, good; Kempton, good; Market Rasen, good; Newton Abbot, heavy; Wolverhampton, chases, good to firm: hurdles, good to soft.

Hereford results

Going: Heavy

12.30 COLTSFOOT HURDLE (3 y-o: novices: £920: 2m)
MOSSY BELL gr f by Town Crier – Miss Moss (P Gwynn) 10-2 ...... N Coleman (4-1) 1
Hoorah Henry ...... P Scudamore (9-2) 2
Welsh Oak ...... P Barton (5-2 fav) 3
TOTE: Win: £5.40. Places: £1.30, £2.60, £1.60. DF: £11.30. CSF: £22.11. R Holder at Bristol. 10l, 20l. The Thunderer (11-2 4th. 16 ran. Nr: Amber Windsor.

1.0 COWSLIP HURDLE (selling: handicap: £682: 2m)
MR MYND b g by Deadly Nightshade – Lady Mynd (G Buckingham-Bawden) 6-10-5 ...... K Mooney (6-1) 1
Pettistree ...... M Caswell (2-1 fav) 2
Severn Sound ...... Miss S James (8-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £8.60. Places: £2.10, £1.50, £1.30. DF: £13.90. CSF: £17.84. TRICAST: £87.74. J Wright at Bromyard. 12l, 4l. Singalong Joe (20-1) 4th. 14 ran. No bid.

1.30 CLOVES CHASE (£1,696: 2m 4f
LORD LEIGHTON ch g by Vaguely Noble – Gentle Thoughts (S Ryan) 7-11-5 ...... C Brown (5-1) 1
Poyntz Pass ...... H Rogers (13-8 fav) 2
Late Night Extra ...... M Perrett (6-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £8.40. Places: £2.60, £1.30, £2.40. DF: £7.70. CSF: £13.51. L Kennard at Taunton. 6l, 2l. Leander Blue (8-1) 4th. 9 ran.

2.0 CARAWAY CHASE (6-y-o: novices: £1,081: 2m 4f)
NATIVE BREAK br by Native Charger – Commercial Break (R Edwards) 11-0 ...... P Scudamore (12-1) 1
Double Bass ...... H Davies (7-1) 2
Tom Tailor ...... A Webber (9-2) 3
TOTE: Win: £8.60. Places: £3.60, £2.10, £1.50. DF: Winner or 2nd with any other horse: £2.50. CSF: £88.09. Mrs W Sykes at Bishops Castle. ¾l, 12 l. Trust The King (2-1 fav). Another Spin (16-1) 4th. 14 ran.

2.30 COMFREY CHASE (handicap: £1,371: 3m 1f)
PUCKA FELLA b g by Sahib – So Beautiful (Mrs D Tucker) 9-10-8 ... M O'Halloran (3-1) 1
Northern Bay ...... P Hobbs (4-1) 2
Davids Folly ...... Mr R Dunwoody (25-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £4.80. Places: £1.00, £2.50, £4.00. DF: £13.50. CSF: £15.02. Tricast: £231.30. Mrs D Tucker at Burnham-on-Sea. 10l, 5l. Stormy Spring (11-4 fav) 4th. 10 ran. NR: Bashful Lad, Farmer Fred.

3.0 CORIANDER HURDLE (handicap: £950: 3m 1f)
RIGTON BEAU b g by Sit In The Corner – Rigton Caprice (Miss C Coyne) 6-11-8 ...... A Webber (3-1) 1
Monford ...... M Perrett (14-1) 2
Free Choice ...... P Barton (10-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £4.40. Places: £1.80, £4.50, £3.20, £1.90. DF: £34.80. CSF: £47.46. Tricast: £367.02. G Kindersley at Newbury. 20l, 2½l. Welsh Display (10-) 4th. Do Or Die (5-2 fav) 17 ran. PLACEPOT: £697.35.

Uttoxeter

Going: Soft

12.45 NORBURY HURDLE (div: novices: £690 2m 1f)
STRATH LEADER ch g by My Swanee – Demaks Pet (Mrs C Fairbairn) 5-10-12 ...... P Warner (7-1) 1
Basis ...... J J O'Neill (8-1) 2
Orp Baltic ...... M Brisbourne (20-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £8.70. Places: £1.60, £1.70, £15.70. DF: £16.40. CSF: £87.34. J Edwards at Ross-on-Wye. 2½ l, 1l. Hayakaze (10-11 fav) 4th. 16 ran. NR: Brian's Buck, Magjoy.

1.15 TUTBURY CHASE (handicap: conditional jockeys: £1,299: 3m 2f)
GARRICK SWAINE br g by Ballykisteen – Mistress Kelly (Miss G Jennings) 10-10-0 ...... P Farrell (12-1) 1
Cross ...... S Moore (14-1) 2
Honourable Man ...... K Jones (4-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £18.00. Places: £3.90, £3.50, £2.10. DF: Winner or second with any other £6.00. CSF: £156.01. Tricast: £725.84. Miss G Jennings at Filey. 7l, 3l. Sharpshod (7-2 fav) Tania's Lad (6-1) 4th. 12 ran.

1.45 DENSTONE HURDLE (selling: handicap: £780: 2m 1f)
BURNDITCH BOY b g by Music – Tummel (R Hughes) 4-9-7 ...... G Evans (50-1) 1
Charity Run ...... C Mcillfatrick (25-1) 2
Sandy Bight ...... T Wall (11-2) 3
TOTE: Win: £15.80. Places: £4.90, £25.10, £1.80. DF: Winner or second with any other £189.60. CSF: £874.51. Tricast: £6,592.80. M Eckley at Ludlow. 10l, 6l. Satin Grange (7-4 fav). Buy Now (25-1) 4th. 14 ran. NR: Riva Be Good. Bought in 1,600gns.

2.15 ELLASTONE CHASE (5-y-o: novices: £1,283: 2m 4f)
SMITH'S MAN gr g by Gaberdine – Doone Gate (Smith Mansfield Meat Co Ltd) 10-12 ...... M Bastard (10-1) 1
Gamble Hall ...... J J O'Neill (11-4) 2
Dellifis ...... R Stronge (20-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £10.40. Places: £1.90, £1200, £10.70. DF: £18.50. CSF: £40.57. Mrs J Pitman, at Lambourn. 3l, 4l. The Welder (11-10 fav) 4th. 12 ran. NR: Hasel R'mel.

2.45 FARLEY CHASE (handicap: £1,460: 2m 1f)
ROYAL MERE ch g by Duc d'Orleans – Shady Venture (Sir J Hanmer) 6-10-10 ...... S Morshead (4-1) 1
Scottish Bar ...... N Madden (14-1) 2
Captain Shadow ...... Mrs P Nicholls (10-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £4.400. Places: £2.70, £2.00, £1.70. DF: £25.50. CSF: £57.67. Tricast: £500.68. Mrs M Rimell, at Severn Stoke. 4l, hd. Wood Aven (5-2 fav) 4th. 11 ran.

3.15 NORBURY HURDLE (Div II: novices: £690: 2m 1f)
LEGAL EMPEROR b g by Menelek – Legal Fortune (Mrs R McLaughlin) 5-10-12 ...... M Dwyer (7-2) 1
Outlaw ...... J J O'Neill (8-1) 2
Night Clown ...... K Sims (14-1) 3
TOTE: Win: £8.00. Places: £2.00, £2.70, £5.10. DF: £9.00. CSF: £32.09. J Fitzgerald, at Malton. 2½l, ½l. Ladycross (7-2) 4th. Pride O'Fife (3-1 fav). 20 ran. PLACEPOT: £583.05 to 50p stake.

The wise complement to Wisden

By Marcus Williams

It is a long time – far longer than most of us can remember – since *Wisden* was published at the start of the year. Modern production methods and the sheet bulk of the almanack have left us to wait until April for a detailed record of the previous summer's cricket.

That changed, of course, four years ago when, within a matter of weeks of the end of the season, the Pelham Cricket Year was first published. Sponsorhsip brought a change of name last year to the Benson and Hedges Cricket Year, which appears now for the second time. The strength of the book is its magnificante illustrations and, thanks to sponsorship, the publishers, Pelham, are able to keep the cover price down to £10.95.

Coverage of the game world-wide has been extended to include domestic cricket in India, Pakistan and Zimbabwe. The scores of Test matches, one-day internationals and other leading fixtures are given in detail, the rest appear in summarized form. The overall quality is marred only by a few minor blemishes, caused, I feel sure, only by the haste demanded by the production schedules.

David Lemmon, the enthusiastic editor and aprolific author in his own right of books on cricket, is the first to acknowledge the supremacy of Wisden as the game's leading reference book. His Benson and Hedges Cricket Year is now a compulsive complement.

Devotees of BBC Radio 3's ball-by-ball cricket coverage will not have to wait until next season to keep in touch with their favourite team. Not only will there be extensive live broadcasts from England's tour of Pakistan, but there is also Test Match Special 2 (Queen Anne Press, £9.95), edited by Peter Baxter and containing contributions from the masters of the mike – Arlott, Johnston, Bailey, Trueman, Blofeld, Lewis and Martin-Jenkins – not foregetting "the bearded wonder", Frindall.

Money-saving guide

A guide showing sports clubs now to save money when applying for planning permission to build facilities has just been published by the Scottish Sports Council. It is obtainable from the council at 1 St Colme Street, Edinburgh, EH3 6AA.

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Court of Appeal Law Report December 23 1983 Queen's Bench Division

Applying for stay is not disputing jurisdiction

Astro Exito Navegacion SA v Hsu

Before Lord Justice Oliver, Lord Justice Slade and Lord Justice Robert Goff

[Judgment delivered December 20]

The Court of Appeal held that an application by a defendant for a stay of proceedings, where there could be no question of his disputing the jurisdiction of the court, was not an application under Order 12, rule 8(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court; and that, in any event, by making an application for an order striking out part of the claim indorsed on the writ the defendant had voluntarily submitted to the jurisdiction and could not thereafter dispute the jurisdiction of the court.

The court allowed a cross appeal by plaintiffs from an order granting the defendant an extension of time within which to lodge a further acknowledgment of service so as to prevent the plaintiffs entering judgment in default, following the dismissal of his applications (i) for a stay of the proceedings, on the basis that there was another clearly more appropriate forum, and (ii) to strike out a paragraph of the claim indorsed on the writ and pending an appeal on the former. The application for the extension of time had been made on the basis that the application for a stay of the proceedings was an application under Order 12, rule 8(1).

Mr Steven Gee for Astro; Mr Hsu did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE ROBERT GOFF, giving the judgment of the court, said that the application for a stay of proceedings was not an application under Order 12, rule 8(1).

Only where a party, on one of the grounds specified in that rule, sought relief in which he disputed the jurisdiction of the court could his application fall within the rule. There was no question of the defendant disputing the jurisdiction of the court. As he had been served personally with the writ in this country, it was difficult to see on what ground he could possibly do so.

The effect of a stay, if granted, would not have been to set aside the proceedings; it would have been simply to stop the plaintiffs from pursuing that action any further at that time. Accordingly, as the defendant had lodged an acknowledgment of service and had not thereafter made any application under Order 12, rule 8(1), his acknowledgment of service was, by virtue of rule 8(7), treated as a submission to the jurisdiction of the court.

Further, by applying for an order striking out a paragraph of the claim indorsed on the writ the defendant had voluntarily submitted to the jurisdiction of the court. In those circumstances, it was in any event not open for the defendant thereafter to dispute the jurisdiction of the court. The procedure which fell within Order 12, rule 8(1) could not be open to a litigant who had already submitted to the jurisdiction.

Solicitors: Holman, Fenwick & Willan.

Settled tax appeal cannot be reopened

Scorer (Inspector of Taxes) v Olin Energy Systems Ltd

Before Lord Justice Lawton, Lord Justice Fox and Lord Justice Kerr

[Judgment delivered December 19]

Where an appeal against assessment to income or corporation tax had been settled by agreement under section 510 of the Income Tax Act 1952 (now section 54 of the Taxes Management Act 1970), any claim clearly raised by implication by the taxpayer in that appeal was deemed to be settled between the Inland Revenue and the taxpayer and could not subsequently be reopened, provided an inspector of taxes of average experience considering the information before him in the ordinary course of his duties would have appreciated that the claim was being raised.

The Court of Appeal so held, Lord Justice Kerr dissenting, allowing an appeal by Olin Energy Systems Ltd from a decision of Mr Justice Walton (*The Times*, August 15, 1982) who on July 30, 1982, had allowed an appeal by Mr Kenneth Scorer, Inspector of Taxes, against a determination of the Special Commissioners that the taxpayer could not be assessed to corporation tax in respect of a period for which it had previously been agreed between the taxpayer and an inspector that its liability was nil.

Mr Graham Aaronson, QC for the taxpayer; Mr Donald Potter, QC and Mr Robert Carnwath for the inspector.

LORD JUSTICE LAWTON said that the taxpayer's business had operated in two divisions. Interest on a loan which ought to have been attributed to one of the divisions, which had ceased to trade before the beginning of the relevant period, was dealt with by the company, with the approval of its auditors, by charging it against the aggregate trading result of the two divisions.

On that basis, the taxpayer's liability to corporation tax in the relevant period was reduced to nil, and such a calculation was accepted by an inspector in agreeing a settlement under section 510 (1) of an appeal against an assessment.

It was now clear that the inspector had erred in law in accepting that basis of calculation, and the new inspector had sought to make a fresh assessment in respect of that period. Below, Mr Justice Walton had held that it was open to the inspector so to do.

It was wrong to presume, as had been suggested by Lord Justice Sachs in *Banning v Wright* [(1970) 48 TC 421, 441-2], that a taxpayer had raised in support of his appeal all the points which were reasonably open and arguable, even though he had not referred expressly to them.

However, it was not necessary for the purpose of section 510(1) of the 1952 Act that a taxpayer should state in terms what he was claiming provided that that claim was clearly implied and that the inspector must have directed his mind to that claim. The commissioners' determination had been correct and his Lordship would accordingly allow the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE FOX said that it was clear from the authorities that section 510(1) would protect a taxpayer from an assessment to tax where the point in dispute on the second occasion had been the subject-matter of an agreement between the taxpayer and the inspector under section 510 on an earlier appeal.

Thus it was not open to the Revenue, even upon discovering some error of law or fact or some further information, to relitigate the very point that had been agreed between the parties.

It was common practice on an appeal against an assessment for the grounds to be stated very widely, and the failure to raise a particular point on the notice of appeal was not conclusive that that point had not been settled by the ensuing agreement.

The real question was not the contents of the notice but the nature of the agreement. Moreover, it was not necessary that the point of law in issue should have been formulated in the correspondence which comprised the agreement. It mattered not why a particular agreement had been concluded but whether it had.

Section 510 had been passed to protect taxpayers by producing finality, and Parliament must have contemplated that a taxpayer would be protected even though the inspector had erred.

If the taxpayer, albeit honestly, had provided misleading information to the inspector, the situation would have been different, but that problem did not arise in this case.

It had been argued that the administrative burdens on inspectors were such that section 510(1) ought not to be construed so as to require an inspector to go searching for facts in previous papers before he could safely conclude an agreement.

That section had been enacted to protect taxpayers, and the courts should be cautious about limiting its operation in the interests of administrative convenience.

In his Lordship's judgment the point now in issue had been the subject of the previous agreement and could not now be reopened. He would allow the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE KERR, dissenting, said that on an appeal against an assessment, statute had placed on the taxpayer the burden of displacing the assessment. Moreover, he was required to lodge a notice setting out the grounds of appeal. Section 510 had to be construed in that context.

Unless the taxpayer could show that a specified ground of appeal had been raised so as to create an issue on the correctness of the assessment and had been disposed of by agreement either expressly or impliedly, he could not rely on the protection afforded by section 510(1).

In his Lordship's judgment, the true point in issue in this case had not been raised either expressly or impliedly in the first appeal, and he would dismiss the appeal.

Solicitors: Linklakers & Paines; Solicitor, Inland Revenue.

Correction

In *R v Corfield (The Times December 17)* it should be made clear that the material irregularity on the basis of which the appeal was allowed was the late stage at which the additional count was added. The words "and no opportunity was given for prosecution witnesses to be recalled" should not have been included.

Hours of retained fireman depend on time on call

Suffolk County Council v Secretary of State for the Environment and Another

Before Mr Justice Woolf

[Judgment delivered December 20]

The contractual minimum hours of employment of a part-time fireman were to be determined for the purpose of the Local Government Superannuation Regulations (SI 1974 No 520) by reference to the number of hours during which he was required to be on call, not the hours he spent attending at the fire station or at a fire. Contingent rights to benefits and pension in the event of injury did not constitute a superannuation scheme for the purpose of the 1974 Regulations, and accordingly the existence of such rights under the firemen's pension scheme did not disentitle a part-time fireman for benefiting under the 1974 Regulations.

Mr Justice Woolf so held in the Queen's Bench Division on dismissing an application by Suffolk County Council for an order to reverse a determination of the secretary of state who on June 23, 1980, had determined that Mr E. G. N. Alcock, a part-time "retained" fireman was entitled to superannuation under the 1974 Regulations.

Mr Anthony Scrivener, QC and Mr Colin Smith for the council; Mr Andrew Collins for the secretary of state; Mr Anthony Dinkin for the fireman.

MR JUSTICE WOOLF said that for the fireman to benefit under the 1974 Rgulations it had to be shown that his contractual minimum hours of employment regularly or usually amounted to 30 hours or more in each week.

In *Bullock v Merseyside Metropolitan County Council* ((1979) 77 LGR 333), the Court of Appeal had held that in considering whether a part-time retained fireman's employment was governed by a contract involving his working *usually for more than 21 hours a week*, for the purposes of the Contracts of Employment Act 1972, account should be taken of the hours when he was on call, and not merely the time he usually spent at the fire station or fighting fires.

In his Lordship's judgment it was very important in the employment field for the courts to adopt a consistent approach and it would not be right to distinguish *Bullock's* case merely because it was concerned with a different statute. Accordingly the fireman's minimum hours of work did usually exceed 30, and the secretary of state had been correct in so holding.

A person otherwise eligible for superannuation under the 1974 Regulations could not become pensionable thereunder if he was entitled to participate in the benefits of any other statutory superannuation scheme.

The Firemen's Pension Scheme Order (SI 1973 No 966) provided a superannuation scheme for full-time, regular firemen, and also injury benefits and pension for part-time firemen. At best that gave a part-time fireman contingent rights arising in the event of injury to him and it would be quite wrong to regard those very limited rights as amounting to a superannuation scheme for the purpose of the 1974 Regulations.

If that were not the case, the controller of the brigade would not be entitled to a pension either under the 1973 Order or the 1974 Regulations, and it was difficult to understand why the Schedule to the 1974 Regulations should refer to a fire authority if none of its employees were entitled to benefit under them.

Moreover, the terms of the Local Government Superannuation (Amendment) (No 2) Regulations (SI 1982 No 1514) were inexplicable unless the draughtsman had thought that part-time firemen were entitled to benefit under the 1974 Regulations.

Solicitors: Sharpe, Pritchard & Co for Mr K. W. S. Ashurst, Ipswich; Treasury Solicitor: Gulland & Gulland, Maidstone.

Power to vary licence terms on renewal bid

Manchester City Council v Pryor

A licensing authority had power under section 108(2) of the Greater Manchester Act 1981 (which was in the same terms as the general power now contained in paragraph 1(4) of Schedule 1 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982) upon an application for the renewal of a public entertainment licence, to vary the terms of that licence and was not bound either to grant renewal in the original terms or to refuse renewal altogether.

Mr Justice Woolf so held in the Queen's Bench Division on December 20, allowing an appeal from the Greater Manchester Stipendiary Magistrate who on January 6 had allowed an appeal by Mr Jack Pryor against a decision of the Manchester City Council to vary the hours of a public entertainment licence which he had applied to renew.

Use of land includes building on it

North Warwickshire Borough Council v Secretary of State for the Environment

In section 22(2)(e) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971, 'land' had the meaning ascribed to it by section 290 of that Act, and therefore included buildings. Accordingly the use of buildings for an agricultural purpose was not development for the purpose of the Act and did not require planning permission, even if that use was not in any way dependent upon the land on which the buildings stood

Mr Justice Woolf so held in the Queen's Bench Division on December 21, allowing an appeal by the North Warwickshire District Council and a cross-appeal by Mr Amrik Singh Gill against a decision of an inspector appointed by the secretary of state, who allowed appeals by Mr Gill against determinations of the council.

Motoring by Clifford Webb

Opel closing the quality gap

The American Big Two, General Motors and Ford, have been trying for years to produce large luxury saloons offering real competition for Mercedes. They have some way to go before achieving that target but the Opel Senator 3-litre, petrol injected CD Saloon does have a number of Mercedes-like qualities which show that the gap is at last closing. It also explains why Mercedes are looking to more advanced technology in their next generation cars to maintain their leadership.

Driving the Senator is very similar to driving a Mercedes. The driver's position is upright giving a sense of control missing in more reclined positions. The seats are firm without being unduly hard, and there is a Mercedes-like large steering wheel despite excellent power assistance, and the brakes are light and powerful in operation.

But the most impressive thing about the big Opel is its quietness. It really is one of the quietest cars I have driven for a long time. Even under fierce acceleration the noise level inside the car is surprisingly low. It was the one aspect most frequently commented on by passengers and for my money is what separates the Senator from a number of other mass-produced quality cars such as Ford Granada Ghias.

The ride is pleasant, the roadholding good and there is plenty of power from the big six-cylinder engine now fitted with Bosch L-Jetronic fuel injection. Where it does fall down, however, is with the outdated fuel wasting GM three-speed automatic transmission.

I failed to make 20mpg over some 500 miles of mixed town and motorway travel. That might have been acceptable a few years ago but we are now in the age of four-speed automatics with long-legged top gears featuring "lock-up devices" to reduce torque converter losses.

That aside the £14,000 Senator makes excellent transport for the senior executives who cannot squeeze the extra few thousand pounds out of his board for a Mercedes and is not keen to be seen driving Jaguar's cheapest model, the XJ6 3.4 at £14,489.

There is apparently more status to be gained in driving the top model of one range rather than the bottom of a rival's line-up.

What a pity, therefore, that the Senator and its equally impressive half brother, the Opel Monza coupé, are made entirely in Germany and not assembled in Britain like other Opel models which then become Vauxhall Cavaliers and Astras. Both GM and Ford gave up manufacturing big saloons here some years ago ostensibly because the numbers sold in Britain did not justify duplicating assembly lines with their German factories.

In truth, it was because British quality at that time was markedly inferior. The gap is closing but having made a politically dangerous switch without too much comeback from British unions, I fear it will take a major swing in the economic balance of assembly away from Germany before the big saloons return

The Opel Senator 3 OE CD saloon: a quiet ride.

Vital statistics:

Opel Senator 3. OE CD
Price: £13,994
Engine: 2989cc 6-cylinder
Performance: Maximum speed 127.4 mph, 0-62 mph 11 secs.
Official consumption: Urban 19.3 mpg, 56 mph 31 mpg and 75 mph 24.5 mpg.
Length: 15.8ft.
Insurance: Group 7.

Peugeot Express

The Peugeot 505 is a well-engineered, competent, two-litre saloon which does everything adequately but nothing with verve. Its styling is so unexciting that it gets lost in an even marginally busy city street.

Yet I still rate it highly in the five-seater family saloon sector. Its very conservatism, so typical of Peugeot's approach, is itself attractive at a time when too many car makers are doing extravagant things to their latest models to enable them to claim that they are the fastest, slickest and least thirsty cars on the market.

Now the big French group is attempting to give the 505 a touch of excitement with a new GTI version featuring a 2.2 litre engine compared with the basic two-litre, stiffer suspension, wide low-profile tyres and very full equipment.

This includes all-round electric windows, electric sun roof, alloy wheels and plush upholstery. Peugeot claim it is the most complete specification in its class, but that could be arguable.

A limited slip differential is standard and for the first time on a Peugeot the well-regarded Bosch L-Jetronic fuel injection is used. A five-speed gearbox is standard and the front seats are of the very efficient Recaro type with the driver's being adjustable for height.

On the road the GTI is noticeably harsher in its ride qualities and standard 505s but is still thankfully not in the same skateboard class as some GTIs. I found it a nice compromise between the extremes of the excessively sloppy suspension beloved by some French manufacturers and the bone-hard setups demanded by the tyre squeeling brigade.

It does, however, fall down on the choice of gear ratios. First and second gear are useful traffic crawlers but the gap between second and third is too large. Unless you scream its head off in second, the change to third produces a noticeable fall in revs and power. At the risk of boring regualar readers, I must again add my weight to the growing number of motorists demanding closer ratio gearboxes for so-called performance cars.

The 505 GTI costs £9,595, has a top speed of 112mph and a 0-60mph time of 10 seconds. Petrol consumption should be between 25 and 30 mpg for most reasonable drivers.

Mini Beetle Races

Most of the hundred or so Mini Beetles which the little Cornish firm of strikes Racing will manufacture in 1984 will probably end up knocking paint off parked Rolls Royces and Cadillacs as the children of Middle East oil rich potentates stage their own car races around the Palace grounds.

That is not to say some of the expensive "toys" will not grace British homes but as they cannot be legally driven on public roads it will only be those with fairly extensive estates. Three versions are available, all powered by a 5-hp petrol engine equipped with automatic transmission and capable of 20 mph. Prices range from £1,750 to £2,125 and are only obtainable from Volkswagen dealers and Hamleys of London.

Volkswagen has had its most successful year in Britain, passing 100,000 sales for the first time.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS and IN MEMORIAM £5.25 a line (minimum 3 lines)

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"...The meek also shall increase their joy in the LORD, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One."–Isaiah 29: 19

BIRTHS

BOOKER–, on December 17th in St Thomas's Hospital SE1 to Theresa born Bunker and Graham, a son Benjamin John, a brother for Joanna and Alexander.

BOURNE. On 20th December to Lauraine and Robert – a son (Rowland Mead).

GOWING. On December 21st to Judy (nee Venables) and Nik – a daughter, Sarah Margaret.

NAHUM.– On December 8th to Fiona (nee Ingham) and Andrew, a son, Adam William

NICHOLSON – Lord On December 16th to Susan (nee Horton) and David, a daughter, Katy Jessica.

RICKFORD.–On December 15 at St Thomas' Hospital to Jackie (nee Burrow) and Jeremy, a daughter, Emma Clare

ROBINSON. – On 19th December 1983 to Vivien (nee Pilkington) and Mark a daughter (Alice Molly Radclyffe).

SLACK–. On Dec 16th to Helen (nee Houghton) and Ian – a beautiful daughter, Elizabeth Frances a sister for Joanna.

STRACHAN.–On December 22 to Sarah (nee Barraclough) and Anthony, a daughter (Caroline Margaret)

GOLDEN WEDDING

SHANNON-LEE-HART on December 23rd in Colombo, Ian Shannon to Auriol Lee-Hart.

DEATHS

BURROWES. On December 21st at home, John Burrowes, MB, BCh, BAO, MFCM. Dearly loved husband of Chris and father of John and Pat and grandfather of John and Katy. Cremation at Cheltenham, 3pm Thursday 29th December. Family flowers only. Donations if desired may be sent for Cheltenham Cobalt Unit, c/o Philip Ford & Son, Funeral Directors Ltd, Dirleton House, Stroud, Glos. Committal service in Northern Ireland later.

CALVER On Dec 17 in Los Angeles, Dr Grace Sherwood Calver, aged 86, formerly of Upper Harley St, London. Wife first of the late Dr James Arthur Hadfield and then of the late Dr Oscar Brunler

CARPENTER. On December 20th, aged 73, at her home in Ashley Green, Bucks, Violet Edith, much loved 'aunt' of Paul and Johnny Williams and dear friend of the Everall family of Berkhamsted and of so many people far and wide. Funeral service at Ashley Green Parish Church at 12.30 on Friday, December 30th. All flowers to Malcolm Jones, Funeral Directors 368 High Street, Berkhamsted, Her[illegible]

CUTLER. – On 22nd [illegible]mber in Sydney, Australia, Ca[illegible] Marr (nee Saddler) after a l[illegible] illness. Birthplace Aberdeen 7th July, 1899. Beloved grandmother of Roz. Private cremation in Sydney.

GRUMITT – On Dec 21st, 1983, Henry Thomas McAuliffe Grumitt, of Penang, Malaysia and Jersey, Channel Islands. Beloved husband of Jill and much loved father of Laura, William and Oliver.

HAMPSHIRE – George Ernest, formerly of Yorkshire, at Haldane House, Sandhurst, on December 21st after a brief illness, aged 103; loving husband of the late Laura, father of the late Wilfred, grandfather of Christine Elbourne (of Odd Rd, Berlory, Scholar Green, Cheshire ST7 8QN) great-grandfather of Katherine and Julian. Service at East Hampstead Crematorium, Bracknell on 29th Dec 1983 at 2 pm

HILL – On 21st December 1983, peacefully at "Westwoods", Colne Engaine, Essex, Stephen Ernest Hill, aged 84 years, dear husband and companion of Violet. Funeral service at Colne Engaine Parish Church at 2.30pm on Tuesday 3rd January followed by private cremation. Flowers and enquiries please to W. H. Shephard, Funeral Service Ltd. Tel: 0206-572306.

HOBBS – On 20th December 1983, suddenly, Richard Albert of 68 Bromfelde Road, S.W.4. Funeral on Friday, 30th December at 1 pm, South London Crematorium. Flowers or donations to The Mercantile Marine Service Association, Nautilus House, Mariners' Park, Wallasey, Merseyside or phone: 01-622 7719.

HUTTON – On December 21st 1983, Major General Reginald Antony, C.I.E., D.S.O. & Bar, O.B.E., D.L., Late 2nd K.E.O. of the Goorkhos, Of the Haven, Newton Ferrers, Devon, in his 84th year, cremation private, a memorial service will be held in the Parish church, Newton Ferrers, 3pm on Saturday February 11th 1984.

KENNEDY-COCHRAN – PATRICK. On Saturday 17th Dec 1983 tragically in London, Jasmine Caroline Hay, beloved wife of Nigel and dear mother of James, "Whinhurst", Portencross, West Kilbride. Service in St. Andrews Church, West Kilbride on Thursday 29th inst., at 11.00a.m. Funeral thereafter to West Kilbride Cemetery arriving approximately 11.30 a.m.

LAING. On December 20th suddenly in hospital, John Alexander, aged 70 years, of Wolferton House, Sporle, Kings Lynn. Dearly loved husband of Peggy, father of Martin, Andrew, Sarah and Stephen. Funeral service at St Mary's Church, Sporle, 1pm Saturday December 24th. Family flowers only, but donations may be sent for Newton by Castleacre Church Restoration Fund, c/o Philip Gaskin, Chapmans Funeral Service, 17 Lynn Rd, Swaffham, Norfolk.

MANDER. On 20th December suddenly after a short illness, Raymond Josiah Gale, theatre historian. Cremation at Honor Oak Park Crematorium on 28th December at 1.30. Family flowers only. If desired donations to the Raymond Mander and Joe Mitchenson Theatre Collection (Charitable Trust), c/o B M Fournier, 15 Jermyn Street, SW1.

McCULLAGH, EVELINE. – Peacefully on 19th December at the Middlesex Hospital. Owner of The Imperial Collection Crown Jewel Exhibition at Westminster, which was her life's work. She is sadly missed by all. Requiem Mass will be said at St James Church, Spanish Place, W1, at 10.30 am on Thursday, 29 December, followed by interment at Putney Vale Cemetery at 12 noon. No flowers requested, but donations to further the work of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. Messages of condolence c/o Nasyar, 62 Welbeck St, W1

PEASE on December 19 peacefully in York, Launa Margaret, widow of Lieutenant Col. Arnold Ramsay Keppel and Sir Richard A. Pease. Funeral service private. A memorial service will be held at the Grosvenor Chapel, South Audley St, on Monday 9th Jan. 1984 at 2.30pm.

PHELPS.–On December 21 aged 85 years, Rigmor Emilie Louise Phelps, formerly of Peaslake, Surrey, peacefully at Morecombe. Tel 01-352 3258.

STRANG–. At the Western Infirmary Glasgow on 21st December 1983, Crawford Strang, beloved husband of Catherine and much loved father of Alastair, Alan and Ronald. Funeral service at Linn Crematorium St Mungo Chapel, Lainshaw Drive, Glasgow G45, on Saturday 24th December at 11.30am to which all friends are respectfully invited. No flowers or letters please

THOMASSON. – On 21st December, 1983, Ronald Thomasson, LDS, of Bridle Road, Stafford, aged 66 years, at rest. Will be sadly missed by all his dear family and friends. Funeral service to be held at St Annes Church, Baswich, Stafford on Friday 30th December at 11.30am. Further enquiries to W Emery & Son, Stafford 51205.

WILKINSON. – On Wednesday, 21st December, John, aged 88 years. Funeral at St Bartholomews, Rogate near Petersfield, Thursday, 29th December, at 2 p m Family flowers only please. Donations if wished to R.U.K.B.A., 6 Avonmore Road, London W14 8RL.

FUNERALS

ARBUTHNOT – Jane at St. Luke's Church, Sydney Street, Chelsea, 2p m. Friday 30th December. Friends of the family and colleagues from the Metropolitan Police. Flowers please to Kenyons, Funeral Directors, 49 Marlowes Road, Kensington, W 8 by noon 30th December

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOG Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to both my friends and all other awesome tirreds. C

CHARMAIN (nee Jowitt) and Matthew Barraclough, through circumstances beyond their control are officially homeless on Jan 30th. Would love to hear from any friends & relations. Box 0073H The Times.

PLEASE SEND for free information about ASTHMA and its treatment. Also ASTHMA NEWS. 16p stamp appreciated. Asthma Research Council, (TA) Freepost, St Thomas's Hospital, London, S.E.1 2BR

WENT TO MEET MAGNUS at Orange Brewery. Missed h. Stumbled upon new 20's Bar Cafe. Great find. Carol smashing. See you there Friday Rod. 39 Ranelagh Grove, Pimlico.

KENNETH J. ROBINSON of London & Crowborough, will not be sending Christmas cards this year, but wishes all his many friends both here & abroad, Season's Greetings.

Mr & Mrs H. W. FRENCH wish to announce the marriage of their daughter Laura to Dr Robert Epstein of New York. The wedding took place at Miami, Florida, on Dec 22.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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26 December	NO PAPER
27 December	22 December, 5 pm
28 December	22 December, 5 pm
29 December	22 December, 5 pm
2 January	29 December, 5 pm
3 January	29 December, 5 pm
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EDUCATIONAL COURSES

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Candidates must also be applicants to the University for a place on either the undergraduate BA degree course in Music (in which case they must also make an application through UCCA) or a postgraduate degree in Music

For application form, write to the Professor of Music, The Music School, University of Nottingham, Nottingham NG7 2RD by Tuesday 3 January 1984. The trials will be held on 10 January 1984

PUBLIC NOTICES

PASTORAL MEASURE 1983

The Church Commissioners have prepared a draft pastoral scheme containing provision for declaring redundant the parish church of the parish of Saint Nicholas, Ipswich (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich diocese). Copies of the draft scheme may be obtained from the Church Commissioners, 1 Millbank, London SW1P 3JZ, to whom any representations should be sent within 28 days of the publication of this notice.

LEGAL NOTICES

THE COMPANIES ACTS 1948 to 1981
CORBY PANEL INDUSTRIES LIMITED

NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to section 293 of the Companies Act, 1948, that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Touche Ross & Co, Hill House, 1 Little New Street, London, EC4A 3TR, on Thursday, the 12th day of January, 1984, at 11.30 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purposes mentioned in sections 294 and 295 of the said Act.

Dated this 12th day of December, 1983.

By order of the board,
D W THOMPSON,
Secretary

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

THE PIANO WAREHOUSE Happy Christmas Sale of restored pianos. The ideal Christmas gift. 25 Castlehaven Rd., NW1 01 267 7674

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FOR SALE – 100,000,000.00 US Houston Texas commercial real estate. For pictures and written information contact Robert Cranshaw, Vice-President Crocker Realty Corp., Parklane Hotel, phone number 01 499 6321

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also on page 19

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BMW 3.0 CSL 1973, blue, good condition, tested. See collectors column.

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MGB GT in Superb Original Condition

40,000 miles, full history, rust free, MOT etc. 1967 model in blue with wire wheels and O/D. £2,500. Tel: Aylesbury (0296) 630297

PORSCHE 911 R S Lightweight Carrera. 100 per cent genuine and original car £6,200. 0272 621635 [illegible]

BENTLEY S2 Sand over Sable Cream interior Absolutely beautiful £4,900 Possible part exchange 0272 621635

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FINEST AVAILABLE 911 SC SPORTS TARGA

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FINANCE REQUIRED for new venture to be based in Florida. High profit return on investment. Phone 061 647 4092.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

COMMANDER and Mrs Hubert Grefton are not sending any Christmas cards this year. They wish all their friends a very happy Christmas and New Year

WINE AND DINE

ROMANTIC DINNER. The fireside and sounds of live piano means Masters Restaurant. The food speaks for its self. 190 Queens Gate, (near Albert Hall). 881 5666.

FLAT SHARING

KENSINGTON 2 girls to share large double bedroom in good flat from early Jan. £32 pw excl. Tel: 373 0858 after 6 today

Entertainments

CC Most credit cards accepted for telephone bookings or at the box office

When telephoning use prefix 01 only when outside London Metropolitan Area

OPERA & BALLET

BLOOMSBURY. Gordon St, WC1 387 9629. CC 380 1453. Until Jan 14 HANSEL & GRETEL Evgs 7.00. Sat mats & 26 Dec, 2 Jan 2.30

COLISEUM 836 3161 cc 240 5258 Box Office closed Tomor, Mon, Tue.

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Ton't, Thurs next: 7.30: THE ADVENTURES OF MR BROUCEK. Some seats avail at door each day

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, COVENT GARDEN 240 1066, 1911 10am-8pm (Mon-Sat). (Box Office closed Sat Dec 24.) Access Visa. 'S' 65 amphi-seats avail for all perfs (Mon-Sat) from 10am on the day

THE ROYAL OPERA
Ton't at 7.30pm. Mon at 1.30pm. Die Fledermaus.

THE ROYAL BALLET
Mon at 7.30pm. Tues at 2.30 & 7.30pm. Thurs at 8.00pm Cinderella.

SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE EC1. 01-278 8916 (5 lines). cc Grp sales 01-930 6123. The Wells' Stagecoach. Before and after-show Bus Service. Phone B.O for details. NEW SADLER'S WELLS OPERA Hotline: Tel 01-278 0855 (24 hrs) for brochure

BOX OFFICE CLOSED DEC 23-27 & JAN 1.
BOX OFFICE OPEN: DEC 31 (10.30 to 7.30) JAN 2 (12 to 7.30).
Dec 29-Jan 14: SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET.

CONCERTS

BARBICAN HALL, Barbican Centre EC2 01-638 8891/01-628 8795. Mon./Tues. 3.00 The sensational Kasatka Cossacks. Mon. 8.00 Gilbert & Sullivan Gala.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL 928 3191 cc 928 6844. LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET 27 Dec-7 Jan Ronald Hynd's THE NUTCRACKER 9-18 Jan Ben Stevenson's CINDERELLA

Opens Dec 27 at 7.30 (Dec 28 to Dec 31 3.00 & 7.30. From 2 Jan eves 7.30, Sat Mat 3.00 Book Now! Many performances sold out.

THEATRES

ADELPHI 836 7611/2. Cdt cards 930 9232, 836 7358. Grp sales 930 6123. Eves 7.30, Thur & Sat Mats 3.00 (Perfs as normal over Christmas, New Year) ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY'S MUSICAL OF THE YEAR

POPPY
by Peter Nichols & Monty Norman
"MAGNIFICENT SPECTACLE" D Ml.
"Lavish Extravaganza" F. Tms.
"UNMISSABLE TREAT" Punch

ALBERY S 01-836 3878 cc 379 6565, 930 9232. Grp bkgs 01-836 3962, 930 6123. Eves 8.00. Thurs Mat 3.00. Sat 5.30 & 8.30.
"A WONDERFUL QUARTET" D.Mail
PAUL EDDINGTON COLIN BLAKELY
GEORGINA HALE JANE CARR
LOVERS DANCING
a new comedy by CHARLES DYER
"VERY FUNNY INDEED"
AN EXCELLENT PLAY" Stage
"SUPERBLY PLAYED" Punch
"SHEER PLEASURE" Variety

ALDWYCH 836 6404 379 6233 S CC 836 0641.
Back on stage the legendary "FAGIN"
RON MOODY
"In Lionel Bart's miraculous Musical." FT
"OLIVER!"
"Consider yourself lucky to see it again!" D Mir
Back in the West End
For 5 weeks only
Evgs 7.30. Mats Weds & Sat 3.00pm
Extra Xmas matinees
Thurs 29th Dec & 5th Jan at 3.00pm
BOOK NOW!
Curtain close approx 10pm
BLONDEL transfers here Jan 20.

AMBASSADORS 01-836 1171
The Little Theatre of Comedy Presents
NOW PLAYING
JOHN ALDERTON JAN WATERS
in a new romantic comedy
SPECIAL OCCASIONS
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Feb 13 to 25
VICTORIA WOOD presents her comedy evening LUCKY BAG

Feb 27 to March 3
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LEONARD ROSSITER GEMMA CRAVEN
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Evgs 8.00. Mats Tues 3.00. Sats 5.30 & 8.30. Booking at Theatre 01-836 1171, or 01-930 8577 Credit Card Hotline 01-930 9232 Group Sales 01-930 6123

BLOOMSBURY The Witch is SHEILA STEAFEL See Under Opera

BUSH THEATRE 743 3388 TURNING OVER by Brian Thompson. Tues-Sun 8pm No Perf Dec 24 25 26 27

APOLLO VICTORIA.
STARLIGHT EXPRESS
Opens March 27 1984. Postal application now booking for March 28-June 23. Eves 8.0, Mats Tue & Sat 3.00 (Prices £14.80, £12.00, £9.50, £6.00) to Starlight Express Box office, Apollo Victoria Theatre, Wilton Road, London S.W.1. Cheques payable to Apollo Victoria Theatre.

APOLLO (Shafts Ave) S 437 2663 CC 930 9232 Mon-Fri 8, Sat 5.30, 8.30. Thur 3. Grp 930 6123.
No perf on Sat 24 Dec
HANNAH GORDON
"A masterful portrayal" D. Mail
MARTIN SHAW
"An electric performance" Gdn
JOHN STRIDE
"Mesmerising" Times
THE COUNTRY GIRL
"This great and powerful play" Punch
"Gloriously brought to life" D. Mail
"Magnificent" N.o.W.

BARBICAN. 01-628 8795/638 8891 cc (Today 10am-3pm, closed 24 Dec, re-opens 26 Dec 12 noon).

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
BARBICAN THEATRE. today 2.00 & 7.30 (returns 26 Dec 7.30pm) PETER PAN by J. M. Barrie (runs 3hrs). "Irresistible, simply not to be missed" F Times '82. Few seats still avail Jan 9-12, 16-20, 23-28. Day seats £4 from 10am (from 12 noon 26 Dec).
THE PIT (on't 7.30 (returns 26-28 Dec) THE CUSTOM OF THE COUNTRY by Nicholas Wright. "Speed, novelty and a madcap sense of fun." D Tel. From 2 Jan for 17 perfs only SOFTCOPS by Caryl Churchill.
RSC also at Adelphi.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE WC2 01-379 5299 Eves 7.30. Mat Thur 2.30. Sat 5.00 & 8.00.
JANE LAPOTAIRE
'Sensational' D. Exp
PETER BLAKE
'Magnificent' D. Exp.
in
DEAR ANYONE
"Everything a smash-hit musical should have" D. Mail.
STUBBY KAYE
"Brings the house down." Times."
STEPHANIE VOSS
Group Sales 01-930 6123.

CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THEATRE (0243 781312). Barbara Windsor, Trevor Bannister, Aubrey Woods and Christopher Timothy in ALADDIN. Until Jan 14 Daily 2.0 and 7.0 (Dec 24 at 4.0).

CHURCHILL, Bromley (18 mins Victoria) 460 6677. Charlie Drake, Fenella Fielding in THE WIZARD OF OZ. Daily 2.30 & 7.30 except Tomorrow & Dec 31 at 10.30 & 2.30 until Jan 7 then phone for details.

COMEDY, 930 2578. CC 839 1438 Eves 8.00. Fri 6.00 & 8.45. Sat 5.15 & 8.45
Sat 24th Dec no 8.45 Performance.
"THE FUNNIEST LADY IN TOWN" D. Mail
ELLEN GREENE
NOMINATED FOR THE SWET AWARDS
BEST ACTRESS OF THE YEAR IN A MUSICAL
LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS
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MUSICAL OF THE YEAR
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GOOD SEATS AT MOST PERFORMANCES FROM £6.00
Group sales box office Tel. 930 6123

COTTESLOE (NT's small auditorium – low price tkts). Ton't & Mon. 7.30 The Market Theatre Company, Johannesburg, visiting the NT in MASTER HAROLD AND THE BOYS by Athol Fugard. Ton't 6.00 Michael Rosen 45 mins platform perf All tickets £1.80.

CRITERION. S 930 3216/930 8577 CC 379 6565 930 9232 Grps 836 3962. Mon to Fri 8.0. Thur mat 2.30. Sat 5.30 & 8.30. (Performances as usual over Christmas, New Year).
The Theatre of Comedy Production
JAMES BOLAM IAN OGILVY
STRATFORD JOHNS in
RUN FOR YOUR WIFE
Written & directed by RAY COONEY
"A perfect example of British farce at its best" D Mail
Nominated SWET 1983
COMEDY OF THE YEAR

DOMINION, Tottenham Ct. Rd. 01 580 9562/3. 01-323 1676/7. Evgs 7.30. (ex 24 & 31 Dec) Mat Sat 2.30. Until Jan 28.
WAYNE SLEEP
WITH A DASH OF CHRISTMAS
cc HOT LINES 01-636 8686; 01-930 9232 Group Sales 01-930 6123.

DONMAR WAREHOUSE Earlham St, Cov Gdn. 379 6565. SHOW 9pm. No Perf Dec 26 & Jan 2
BERTICE READING
Musical RECOMMENDED by S Tms.
LATE & LIVE
11pm Bertice Encores with guests £2. Band, Dancing, Food, Drink till 1am.

DRURY LANE Theatre Royal CC 01-836 8108. Grp sales 01-930 6123. Eves 8pm, Fri & Sat 5pm & 8.30pm. (Tomorrow at 5pm only)
"AMAZING ALL-AMERICAN COMPANY" D Tel.
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"18 HUMAN DYNAMOS" S.Exp "A WILD, FLAILING, TWITCHING ENERGY THAT MATCHES THE ON-HEAT NATURE OF THE MUSIC" Guardian
200 Balcony seats at £4 each retained for sale day of perf
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The Beagle Has Landed
A nomination for MUSICAL OF THE YEAR
ACTOR OF THE YEAR IN A MUSICAL
Teddy Kempner
1983 SWET Awards
"An extraordinary achievement" Sunday Telegraph
SNOOPY
THE MUSICAL
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NOW BOOKING TILL MARCH 3
Extra Xmas perfs 26 Dec, 4 & 8pm
Special New Year's Eve perfs 2.30 & 6.00
27 Dec 8.00pm, 2 Jan, 6 & 8.30pm
"BEST MUSICAL" The Observer

DUKE OF YORK'S 01-836 5122 cc 01-836 0641. Group sales 01-930 6123. Evgs 7.30 Mats Weds & Sats at 3.0
DONALD SINDEN BERYL REID
MICHAEL DENISON DULCIE GRAY
NICOLA PAGETT
CLIVE FRANCIS HAROLD INNOCENT
and BILL FRASER
in JOHN BARTON'S production of
THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL
For a limited season.
No perfs Dec 26.

FORTUNE 836 2238. CC hotline 930 9232. Grps 930 6123. Evgs 8.00. Mats (Children ½ price) Thur 3.00, Sat 4.30. Sat Dec 24 No 8.00 Perf. No Perf Jan 2.
DENIS LAWSON
Nominated for SWET Award
ACTOR OF THE YEAR IN A MUSICAL
"Really funny" Obs
MR CINDERS
Music by Vivian Ellis
"Packed with enchanting songs" Tms

GARRICK CC S 01-836 4601. Eves 8.00. Wed Mat 3.00. Sat 5.00 & 8.00. (Tomor 24 Dec at 5pm only)
13th HYSTERICAL YEAR, LONGEST RUNNING COMEDY IN THE WORLD
NO SEX, PLEASE – WE'RE BRITISH
2 HOURS OF NON-STOP LAUGHTER
Directed by Allan Davis
Group Sales Box Office 01-930 6123
Credit Card Hotline 01-836 0641
OVER 5,000 FANTASTIC PERFS.

GLOBE cc 01-437 1592
Andrew Lloyd Webber presents the smash hit comedy of the season
DAISY PULLS IT OFF
by Denise Deegan
Directed by David Gilmore
"HILARIOUS" LBC
"FULL MARKS FOR DAISY" Std
"I'd be surprised if a more enjoyable evening than this came up this year" Financial Times
Eves 8.00 Mats Wed 3.00 Sat 5.00
Group Sales 930 6123.
"THIS IS AN ABSOLUTE HOOT AND A SCREAM" S Times.

GREENWICH THEATRE. 01-858 7755 Evenings 7.45. Mats Sat 2.30. AN INSPECTOR CALLS by J. B. Priestley. "A handsome production" S. Tel. "Affectionate revival" FT. Extended to 28 Jan.

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL [illegible]
9832 Group Sales 01-930 6123
OMAR SHARIF
JUDY CAMPBELL – JOHN MOFFATT
DEBBIE ARNOLD
in
THE SLEEPING PRINCE
by TERENCE RATTIGAN
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Re-opens Jan 9 with the Sensational International Floorshow
PARIS AFTER DARK
8pm-2am Non Diners Welcome

هكذا من الأصل

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davalle

BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax AM: News and information, available on every television set.

6.30 Breakfast Time: with Selina Scott, Mike Smith. Today's 'specials' include Pop News (between 7.45 and 8.00) Slim and Shine, with Audrey Eyton (between 8.30 and 9.00) and Food and Cooking with Glynn Christian (8.30 - 9.00) items include news at 6.30 and half hourly until 8.30, sport (6.40 and 8.40), television choice (6.55), morning papers (7.18 and 8.18).

9.30 The New Adventures of Flash Gordon: cartoon version of the cartoon strip; 9.50 Battle of the Planets: more cartoon adventures from the US. 10.15 Tom and Jerry: Two cartoons; 10.30 Play School: W Opgenoorth's story Hocus Pocus; 10.55 Play Ideas.

11.05 Mountain Born: Walt Disney tale about a young lad who wants to be a shepherd; 11.50 Christmas Cartoons: one of them is The Twelve Days of Christmas; 12.05 Look Back with Noakes: A flight with the aerobatic display team, the Red Arrows.

12.30 News After Noon; 12.57 Financial Report and news, with sub-titles.

1.00 Pebble Mill at One: A star-studded edition. With comedian *Michael Barrymore*, William Rushton, Cilla Black, the funny man Don Maclean, and an American preacher and trapeze artist called Steenburger. 1.50 Little Misses and Mister Men.

2.05 Film: Welcome Stranger (1947) Substitute country doctors for town priests and you have a re-run of Going my Way or The Bells of St Mary's. Bing Crosby and Barry Fitzgerald go through the familiar motions.

3.55 play School: It's Friday; 4.20 The Adventures of Bullwinkle and Rocky: *cartoon serial*; 4.25 Jackanory: Jan Francis with more pages from Barrie's Peter Pan; 4.40 Take Hart: all about rotation. With Tony Hart; 5.00 Crackerjack: with special guests The Great Soprendo, Chas and Dave.

5.40 Sixty Minutes. Includes a preview of the famous Christmas Eve carol service in King's College chapel, Cambridge.

6.40 BBC Television's Carol Competition 1983: The six finalists out of the 2,000 entries from schools all over Britain will perform their compositions in Southwell Minster in Nottinghamshire.

7.15 Film: Across the Great Divide (1977) Al fresco adventure yarn. A story about two orphans stranded in the American wilderness in 1876. They decide to cross the Rocky Mountains to claim a plot of virgin land. With Robert Logan, Heather Rattray and Mark Edward Hall.

8.50 Points of View: Viewers' letters get the Barry Took treatment.

9.00 News: with Nicholas Witchell.

9.25 The Princess and the People: This compilation on sequences from the Princesses of Wales's tours of Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and her visits to various parts of the United Kingdom, shows how she has won the hearts of people everywhere.

10.05 Film: The Dirty Dozen (1967) Bloody, action-filled story of the knocking into shape of twelve prisoners who are sent on a suicide mission of vital strategic importance behind enemy lines during the Second World War. Strong cast includes Lee Marvin, Ernest Borgnine, Charles Bronson, Robert Ryan, John Cassavetes and Telly Savalas.

12.30 Weather forcast.

TV-am

6.25 Good Morning Britain: with Nick Owen and Anne Diamond. The Friday "specials" include Panic Buying with the Stars (7.35), Fantasy Time (8.05), Weekend Television (3.35), Open Dors with Diana Dors (8.40) and The Cooking Cleric (8.50). Regular features include news at 6.28, 6.58, 7.28, 7.58, 8.28 and 8.58.

9.00 Roland's Winter Wonderland.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 Thames news headlines. Followed by: Sesame Street.

10.25 Film: On the Right Track (1981) Comedy. with a tear drop or two. about an orphan boy (Gary Coleman) whose simple life (he lives in a railway station) is transformed by his gift for picking racetrack winners.

12.00 Freetime Cruise: Pupils from Highworth School, Wiltshire, visit Amsterdam and Gibraltar.

12.30 'Holy Chaos': The title is the Dean of St Albans's way of describing what usually happens at the Christmas Eve carol service for children, held at his cathedral.

1.00 News at One: 1.20 Thames area news; 1.30 Cartoon.

1.40 Film: Paint Your Wagon (1969) Hide, wide and mostly handsome musical drama about the California Gold Rush, based on the stage musical by Lerner and Loewe (songs include Wandering Star and I Talk to the Trees). Lee Marvin and Clint Eastwood are the two gold prospectors in love with the same girl (Jean Seberg). Director: Joshua Logan.

4.30 In Search of Father Christmas: A fact-finding journey to the far north of Sweden by an 11-year-old Birmingham schoolboy and a Swedish folklore expert. The music is by Jugg.

5.15 Pop Goes Christmas: Pop music hits, all with a festive slant, performed by David Essex, Toyah, Musical Youth, Mari Wilson, Dexy's Midnight Runners, Shakin' Stevens and The Nolans.

5.45 News; 6.00 Thames Weekend News.

6.15 Police 5: with Shaw Taylor.

6.30 Benson: The butler's Christmas problem is the cook with pressing family problems.

7.00 Christmas Family Fortunes: TV-am's John Stapleton, Nick Owen, Anne Diamond Wincey Willis and Mad Lizzie versus agony aunts Marjorie Proops, Katie Boyle, Deirdre Sanders, Virginia Ironside, and Claire Rayner. With Max Bygraves.

7.45 That's My Boy: Turkey trouble in the family at Christmas. With Mollie Sugden.

8.15 Pride of Our Alley: Alan Plater's stylised account of the life of Gracie Fields. Polly Hemingway plays Our Gracie, with Barry Jackson as Archie Pitt (husband No 1), Michael Angelis as Monty Banks (husband No 2) and George Pravda (as husband No 3). (See Choice).

9.45 News from ITN.

10.00 Baryshnikov - The Dancer and the Dance. A South Bank Show special, presented by Melvyn Bragg. It is an account of the life, and work, of the great ballet dancer, made in New York, where he now lives. (See Choice).

11.30 The Two of Us: Scant Christmas cheer in the Gallagher household when Brentwood (Peter Cook) is suspected of burglary. Followed by: - A Different Christmas: with the Rev Gordon Barritt, principal of the National Children's Home, and Mackie, one of the children in care.



Polly Hemingway: Pride Of Our Alley (ITV, 8.15pm)

CHOICE

● *PRIDE OF OUR ALLEY* (ITV, 8.15pm) is the Gracie Fields story. Or rather, scrapbook. Or rather, musical. All three, in fact. In its own modest way, Alan Plater's screenplay is a *minor miracle of* compression because. biographically, in less than 90 *minutes, it says practically all there* is to say about the millgirl's progress from poverty in Rochdale *to riches in Capri*. At the ditty level, too, there appear to be very few serious gaps. Initially, one's spirits slump as it becomes clear that the format that has been chosen is the one they resort to when *all other* ideas fail: the interview that breaks up into flashbacks. But, in Pride of *Our Alley, the desperate remedy* proves to have a tonic affect because, like many mini-musicals with maxi-themes *(Oh What a Lovely War*, etc), the sketches are stylised, the chapters from Gracie's life unfolding on the stage adjoining *the dressing-room* where the belt-and-braces interview (the reporter uses both note-book and tape-recorder) takes place. Physically, Polly Hemingway resembles Our Gracie more than somewhat, and the make-up department has made up the deficiency. She sings well *enough, but the vocal* impersonation is never more than an approximate one. Half a Gracie voice is no voice at all. The phenomenal sound was the phenomenal woman, and the real singing voice of Gracie ought to have been used, as Jolson's was in *the Larry Parks film. But when it* comes to impersonating the non-singing side of the Lassie from Lancashire, *Miss Hemingway* triumphantly carries all before her.

● BARYSHNIKOV – THE DANCER AND THE DANCE (ITV, 10.00pm) is a scoop *for the South Bank Show; it* is the first item the Kirov defector, who now runs the American Ballet Theatre, has opened up both his art and his heart for television. In going public, *the private person discloses* a personality that is a zephyr to Nureyev's cyclone. *It is when he lets his feet speak* for him, as he does in rehearsal for, and during a performance of, Choo San Goh's new ballet *Configurations*, that Baryshnikov becomes truly *eloquent. In dance sequences such* as those from Le Corsair, there is *illustrated proof* of Antoinette *Sibley's verdict* on the astonishing Russian: "he uses the air as most of us use the earth."

BBC 2

3.55 *Film: The Grass is Greener* (1960) Comedy about British *blue-bloods* (Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr) into whose lives an American millionaire *(Robert Mitchum) erupts. Jean* Simmons also co-stars in this curiously flat film version of the Hugh and Margaret Williams stage play. Directed *by Stanley Donen* in one of his off-periods.

5.35 News Summary.

5.40 A Waltons Special: Mother's Day on Walton's Mountain. *Sentimental tale about country* folk, nice for the Christmas season. A honeymoon accident shatters Mary Ellen's dreams for the future.

7.15 Championship Darts Special: The final of the 1983 Embassy World Professional Championship in which "unknown" Keith Deller took on the world *champion Eric* Bristow.

8.20 Global Report: The Tin Trap. Sarah Hodson watches Bolivian tin miner Higon Cussi Guzman mining ore in the Andes, then follows the story *through the trading* on the London Metal Exchange and on to the manufacturing progress as a vital component of tin cans and computers.

8.50 M*A*S*H: A new drug is to be tested and the "guinea pig" that is selected for the experiment is an ox, one of the more unusual casualties of the Korean war.

9.15 The Everly Brothers Reunion Concert: *Earlier this year*, the duo that was so popular in the Sixties performed together for the first time in 10 years at the Royal Ablert Hall. This is a BBC TV recording of that concert.

10.30 Film: Monkey Business (1931*) Marx Brothers comedy (Zeppo joins Groucho, Chico and Harpo, but there is no Margaret Dumont) in which the *brothers play ocean liner* stowaways who become involved with rival gangs of crooks and a kidnapping. Far less good-natured than the *rest of the Marx canon, but* with many moments of zestful anarchy to savour. Directed by Norman Z Macleod. The first in a Christmas season of six *Marx Brothers films which will* include Duck Soup and A Night in Casablanca.

11.45 News.

11.50 Pick of the Year: A Whistle Test special. *A selection of* highlights from the last series *of Whistle Test featuring some* of the best bands and entertainers of the day, including The Eurythmics, Japan, Spandau Ballet, Aztec *Camera*, Neil Young, Bow Wow Wow, David Bowie, Bauhaus, Joni Mitchell, Captain Beefheart, Grace Jones and many more. *Presented by Mark Ellen and* David Hepworth. Ends at 1.30am.

CHANNEL 4

5.00 The Munsters: American horror film spoof, cleverly set in American suburbia.

5.30 The Tube: Pop music magazine. In tonight's edition, which comes from the *United* States, Jools Holland and Leslie Ash explore New York's clubland. There is also the latest news on the video cassette front, and more alternative chart music.

7.00 Channel Four News. *Followed* by weather.

7.30 Right to Reply: Channel 4 viewers' weekly chance to put the channel's programme-makers and decision-makers on the spot. In the chair: Gus Macdonald.

8.00 The Amateur Naturalist: The final film in the series starring *Gerald and Lee Durrell.* Tonight, they explore two of the richest terrains on earth – the tropical rainforest and the tropical reef. We learn about *the survival strategies* of several Central American species of wildlife, and about the different camouflage techniques adopted by fishes.

8.30 *Film: The Party (1968) Blake* Edwards's comedy stars Peter Sellers as an accident-prone Indian actor (presumably a near-relation of the Indian *doctor* he played in The Millionairess) who is invited to a smart Hollywood party and causes chaos on a massive scale. Inevitably, one thinks of *Tati's films. But there really is* little comparison because the fun in Mr Edwards's comedy is much broader, and the joke soon begins to wear thin. With *Marge Champion* and Claudine Longet.

10.25 An Audience with Kenneth Williams: An audience of famous faces warmly welcomes the comedy actor who, with customary panache, *recalls moments from his* many years in show business. Another in this "audience with" series can be seen next February. It is with *director/actor/writer* Mel Brookes.

11.55 Rockers Roadshow: Black music show window. The show comes from Barr Hill School, Coventry. On stage are Shaper 7, the vocal harmony trio Glasshouse, and Splashdown. Closedown at 12.40.




Kenneth Williams: 10.25pm

Radio 4

6.00 *News Briefing.*
6.10 *Farming Today 6.25 Shipping.*
6.30 Today, including 6.30, 7.30, 8.30 *News 6.45 Prayer 6.55, 7.55* Weather 7.00, 8.00 News 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the *Day 8.35 Yesterday in Parliament* 8.50 Your Letters 8.57 Weather; Travel.
9.00 News.
9.05 Desert Island Discs: Actor James Stewart.(r)†
9.45 Feedback: Your views and comments about BBC tv and radio put to producers and management.
10.00 News; International Assignment. BBC correspondents review a contemporary issue.
10.30 Morning Story: 'A Minor Incident' by Nick Yapp. Read by Garard Green.
10.45 Daily Service.†
11.00 News; Travel; A Small Ray of Genius. A portrait of Hannah More by Richard Mullen.
11.48 Natural Selection.
12.00 News; You and Yours.
12.27 My Music: A seasonal edition of *the musical quiz 12.55 Weather;* Programme News.
1.00 The World at One: News.
1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping.
2.00 News; Woman's Hour from Birmingham: How sci-fi is *replacing Religious Instruction in* Midlands Schools and part two of Anne Suter's A Tale of Two Princesses. *The reader is* Margaret Courtenay.
3.00 News; Sybil or 'The Two *Nations' by Benjamin Disraeli* (6)†
4.00 News; Just After Four. Music Hall recording pioneers.
4.10 The Spirit of Kitty Kawk: The story of some of the people who have made aviation history (6). Man in space.†
4.40 *Story Time: 'The Wind in the Willows' by Kenneth Grahame* (2). Read by Bernard Cribbins. In *today's instalment, we meet Mr* Toad, whose passion for the caravan soon gives way to his ectasy over the motor car.
5.00 PM: News Magazine 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather; Programme News.
6.00 The Six O'Clock News; Financial Report.
6.30 Going Places. The world of travel and transport.
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Pick of the Week: *Programme* highlights with Margaret Howard.†
8.10 *Profile. A personal portrait.*
8.30 Any Questions? from Glastonbury, Somerset with *Frances Morrell, Jeffrey Archer, Clare Francis and Alun Richards.*
9.15 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke.
9.30 Kaleidoscope. A special edition *devoted to the life and work of Irving Berlin. It is presented by* Sheridan Morley, and we hear the voices of Alan Jay Lerner, *Andrew Lloyd Webber, Ethel* Merman, Jerome Robbins, Steve Ross and Brian Rust. 9.59 *Weather.*
10.00 The World Tonight: News.
10.35 Week Ending: A satirical review *of the week's news.*†
11.00 A Book at Bedtime. 'Ask *Mamma' by R. S. Surtees (last of* 15 parts). The reader is John Franklyn-Robbins (the next *Book at Bedtime, Conan Doyle's* The Poison Belt, begins on Boxing Day).
11.15 The Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Letter from Irish shore.
11.45 *John Ebdon in the BBC Sound* Archives.
12.00 News 12.10 Weather 12.15-Close Shipping Forecast. ENGLAND VHF as above except: 6.25-6.30am Weather; Travel 1.55pm Listening Corner 5.50-5.55 PM (continued) 11.00-12.00 Study on 4: 11.00 Digame! Suplemento 11.30 The Training Revolution.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News.
7.05 Morning Concert: part one. Moeran (overture for a Masque), Mozart (Conc in E flat for two pianos, K 365, with Brendel and Imogen Cooper), Bridge (Divertimento for Wind Quartet).†
8.00 News.
8.05 Morning Concert: part two. Beethoven's *Romance* No 2 in F major for violin and orchestra (Ronald Thomas, violin), *Dowland's Go crystal tears*, Handel's Concerto Grosso No 29 for double orchestra, and *Grieg's Norwegian Dances*, Op35.†
9.00 News.
9.05 This Week's Composer: Stravinsky. The Sonata for two pianos (Jacobs/Oppens), Three Pieces (the two separate works), Duo Concertant (with Perlman, violin), The Owl and the Pussycat (Adrienne Albert, soprano), Wolf, arr Stravinsky (Two Sacred Songs: with Ann Murray, mezzo).†
10.00 Schumann and Brahms: Norman Fisher, piano, plays Schumann's Papillons and Brahms's Phantasien, Op 116.†
10.45 Ulster Orchestra: Spohr's *overture Faust, Wagner's* Siegfried Idyll, and Haydn's Symphony No 99.†
11.40 *Felicity Lott: recital by the* soprano, with Graham Johnson at the piano. Songs by Mahler *(including Ich atmet' einen linden* Duft), Hahn, and Poulenc (Metamorphoses etc).†
12.15 Midday Concert: BBC Scottish SO. Part one. Humperdinck's overture Hansel and Gretel and *first UK performance of Bjorn* Hallman's Snow White. With Mary Marquis (narrator).†
1.00 *News.*
1.05 Six Continents: foreign radio broadcasts, monitored by the BBC.
1.20 Midday Concert: part two. Quilter's A Children's Overture, Bizet's Jeux d'enfants, Leroy Anderson's Sleigh Ride, and Lehar's Gold and Silver Waltz.†
2.00 *The Felson Trio: Butterworth's* The Night Wind, Joseph Marx's Three Songs from Pierot *Lunaire, 1909; Martinu's* Sonatina for Clarinet and Piano, Vaughan Williams's Three *Vocalises, and Arnold Cooke's* Three Songs of Innocence.†
2.55 Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra: *with Alexis Weissenberg* (piano). Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No 3.†
3.25 Bach: Sonata in G minor for viola da gamba and harpsichord, BWV 1029, and Sonata in C minor for violin and harpsichord, BWV 1017.†
4.00 Choral Evensong: from York Minster. Organist: *Peter Gould* 1017.†
5.00 Orchestras on their Home Ground: Sibelius's Four Legends (Helsinki Radio SO). Nielsen's Pan and Syrinx (Danish Radio SO), Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No 2 (Hungarian State Orch) and Bartok's Dance Suite (Philharmonic Hungarica).†
6.30 Music for Two Guitars: with Turibio Santos and Oscar Caceres. Works by Scarlatti, *Cimarosa transc Caceres*, Manuel Saumell transc Jesus Ortega, Debussy, and *Castelnuovo-Tedesco.*†
7.00 Cabin'd, Cribb'd, Confin'd: Craig Raine on William Golding, this *year's Nobel prize-winner for* literature. With contributions from, among others, Ian McEwan and Sir Angus Wilson.†
7.45 Hohenems Schubertiads 1983: Arleen Auger (soprano), Francisco Araiza (tenor) and Irwin Gage (piano) in a Schubert recital.†
8.30 Vienna Delivered: Christopher Duffy on the tricentenary of the last siege of Vienna by the Turks.†
8.50 Arnold Bax Centenary: First *performance of Sinfonietta*, 1932 and first broadcast performances of Nympholept, *1912 and A Legend for* Orchestra, 1944.†
9.55 On and Off Stage: Poems about plays, players and playhouses, *read by Jill Balcon*, Hugh Dickson and Gary Watson.†
10.20 Italian Harpsichord Music: *played by Melvyn Tan*. Works by Rossi, Pasquini and Scarlatti.†
11.00 The Complete Webern: Includes *Five Movements, Op 5* (version for string orchestra), and Johann Strauss arr Webern: Treasure *Waltz (The Gypsy Baron).*†
11.35 News. Until 11.38.

Radio 2

News on the hour (except 8.00pm and 9.00) Major bulletins 7.00am, 8.00, *1.00pm, 5.00 and 12.00 midnight*. Headlines 5.30am, 6.30, 7.30 and 8.30 (MF/MW) 5.00am Ray Moore† 7.30 *Terry Wogan*† *10.00 Jimmy Young*† 12.00 Music While You Work with the GUS Band† 12.30 Gloria Hunniford's *Dial-a-Carol* †*Tel: 580 4411 between* 1.00pm and 1.30 2.02 Sports Desk 2.30 Ed Stewart†3.02 Sports Desk 4.00 *David Hamilton*†*4.02, 5.30 Sports Desk* 6.00 John Dunn†incl 6.45 Sport and Classified Results (MF only) 7.30 Male *Voice Choir Competition*. Twenty-four choirs from various parts of Britain compete to find the Radio Wales Male *Voice Choir of the Year*† 8.15 *Friday* Night is Music Night *direct* from the Hippodrome, Golders Green, London† *9.30 The Mike Sammes Singers*†*9.57* Sports Desk 10.00 It Sticks Out Half A Mile. A seaside saga starring John Le *Mesurier, Ian Lavender and Bill* Pertwee 10.30 Brian Matthew presents Round Midnight (stereo from midnight) *1.00am Night Owls with Dave Gelly*† 2.00-5.00 Bill Rennells presents You and the Night and the Music†

Radio 1

News on the half-hour 6.30am-8.30 pm, then at 10.00 and 12.00 midnight (MF/MW).
6.00am Adrian John. 7.00 Mike Read. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.30 Mike Smith, incl 12.30 Newsbeat. 2.00 Gary Davies. 4.30 Peter Powell's Select-a-Disc. 5.30 Newsbeat. 5.45 Roundtable. 7.00 Andy Peebles. 9.00-12.00 The Friday Rock Show† VHF Radios 1 and 2 5.00am With Radio 2. 10.00pm With Radio 1. 12.00-5.00 With Radio 2.

WORLD SERVICE

6.00 Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 7.30 Breakthrough. 7.45 Merchant Navy Programme 8.00 World News. *8.09 Reflections. 8.15 The English Air* 8.30 Time Remembered. 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 The World *Today. 9.30 Financial News* 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 Album Time. 10.15 Merchant Navy Programme. 10.30 Business Matters. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News About Britain. 11.15 In the Meantime it's Christmas. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 Jazz for the Asking. 12.45 Sports Roundup. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty Four Hours. 1.30 Radio Theatre. 2.15 Letterbox. 2.30 John Peel. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Outlook. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 A Knocking in the Skull. 4.45 The World Today. 5.00 World News. 5.09 Sarah and Company. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Twenty-Four hours. *8.15 Music Now. 9.45 The* Painter of Signs. 10.00 World News. 10.09 The World Today. 10.25 Book Choice. 10.30 *Financial News. 10.40 Reflections.* 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 From the Weeklies. 11.30 The Samaritans. 12.00 World News. 12.09 News about Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 About Britain. 12.45 Classical Record Review. 1.00 Play of the Week. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 Network UK. 2.30 A Knocking in the Skull. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News about Britain. 3.15 The World Today. 3.30 A Closer Look. 3.45 Recording of the Week. 4.00 Newsdesk. 4.30 Kings of Jazz. 5.45 The World Today.

times in GMT

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m: VHF -90-92.5; Radio 4: 200kHz 1500m: VHF -92-95; LBC 1152kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m; VHF 95.8; BBC Radio London 1458kHz/206m: VHF 94.9; World Service MF 648kHz/463m.

BBC 1 Wales: 12.57-1.00 pm News of Wales. 3.53-3.55 News of *Wales. 5.53 (Part of Sixty Minutes)* Wales Today. 12.30 am News of Wales Headlines. Scotland: 12.55-1.00 pm Scottish News. 5.53 (Part of Sixty Minutes) Scotland: Sixty Minutes. 10.05-10.35 Double Bill with Bill McCue and Bill Torrance (last of series). 10.35-1.00 am Film: The Dirty Dozen (1967) starring Lee Marvin, Ernest Borgnine, Robert Ryan, John Cassavetes, Jim Brown, Clint Walker, Telly Savalas, Charles Bronson, Robert Webber, George Kennedy, Richard Jaeckel, Trini Lopez, Ralph Meeker, Donald Sutherland. 1.00 *Scottish news summary. Northern* Ireland: 12.57-1.00 pm Northern Ireland news. 3.53-3.55 Northern Ireland news. *5.33 (Part of Sixty Minutes)* Scene around Six. 12.30 am Northern Ireland news. England: 5.53 pm (Part of Sixty Minutes. 12.35 am Close.

CHANNEL As London except: Starts 12.00-12.30 pm Freetime Cruise Special. 1.20-1.30 *News. 5.15-5.45 Emmerdale Farm. 6.00* Channel Report. 6.30 Crossroads. 6.55-7.00 What's On Where. 11.30 Flying *Pickets. 12.15 am Closedown.*

BORDER As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 6.00 Lookaround. 6.15-7.00 Christmas Starts Here. 11.30 News, Closedown.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

TSW *As London except*: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 5.15-5.45 Emmerdale Farm. 6.00 Today South West. 6.30-7.00 What's Ahead. 11.30 Mannix. 12.25am Postscript, Closedown.

TVS As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 6.00 Coast to Coast. 6.30-7.00 Friday Sportshow. 11.30 Sweeney. 12.30am Company, Closedown.

HTV As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News 6.00 News. 6.30-7.00 So What's Your Problem. 11.30 Sweeney. 12.30am Carol for Christmas 12.35 Closedown.

HTV WALES As *HTV West* except: 6.00pm Wales at Six 6.30-7.00 Carry on Laughing.

S4C Starts 2.25pm Stori Sbri. 2.40 Orestela. 4.00 Spice of life. 4.25 Anything We Can Do. 4.50 Ol'r Ola. 5.00 Campeto. 5.30 Bands of Gold. 6.30 Addams Family. 7.00 Newyddion Saith. 7.30 Sion a Sian. 8.05 Nadoligari. 8.55 Pawb â'i Fys Yn Ei Le. 9.40 Soap. 10.10 Film: Accounts. 11.55 Our Lives. 12.40am Closedown.

CENTRAL As London except: Starts 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 6.00-7.00 News. 11.30 Christmas *Message from Central*. 11.50 Closedown.

GRANADA As London except: Starts 1.20 pm-1.30 Granada Reports. 6.00 Granada Reports. News. 6.05-7.00 Weekend. 11.30 Newhart. 12.00 Film: Gunshoe (Albert Finney). 1.30 am Closedown.

SCOTTISH As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 5.15-5.45 Emmerdale Farm. 6.00 Scotland Today. 6.30-7.00 Pop Goes Christmas. 11.30 Late Call. 11.35 Carry On Laughing: Christmas Classics. 12.05am Paramount Short. 12.35 Closedown.

TYNE TEES *As London except:* 10.25-12.00 Film: Attack on the Iron Coast (Lloyd Bridges). *1.20pm-1.30 News and Lookaround.* 6.00 Northern Life. 6.20-7.00 Christmas Weekend Lift-off. 11.30 Newhart. 12.00 Three's Company, Closedown.

ANGLIA As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 6.00-7.00 About Anglia. 11.30 Newhart. 12.00 Film: Assassin (Ian Hendry). 1.30am Talking of Christmas, Closedown.

YORKSHIRE As London except: Starts 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 6.00-7.00 Calendar and Sport. 11.30 Newhart. 12.00 Piece of Cake. 12.30 am Closedown.

GRAMPIAN As London except: 9.25pm-9.30 First Thing. 1.20pm-1.30 News. 6.00 North Tonight. 6.30-7.00 Benson. 11.30 Reflections. 11.35 Tom Jones At Knotts. 12.25am News, Closedown.

ULSTER As London except: 9.25am-9.30 The Day Ahead. 1.20pm-1.30 Lunchtime. 6.00 Good Evening Ulster. 6.30-7.00 Christmas Music from Belfast Cathedral. 11.30 Gift at Christmas. 11.35 News, Closedown.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN.
† Stereo. ★Black and white. (r) Repeat.

CRICKET

Lynch defies Surrey and remains with rebel team in South Africa

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

Though advised not to do so by his county, Surrey, and threatened by the Test and County Cricket Board with rustication if he should, Monte Lynch has decided to stay in South Africa and to honour his commitment to the West Indian side now on an 11-week tour of the Republic. The excutive committee of the TCCB announced last week that, if Lyunch were to play in South Africa, they would recommend to the full board, at their meeting on December 13, that his English qualification should be cancelled.

Early yesterday morning Surrey contacted Lynch in Pretoria and presented him with the party line. Soon afterwards they issued a statement which said that, while they disagreed with the TCCB's stance, they had told Lynch that it might, in the long run, be in his and their own best interests to heed the board's warning. Soon after midday Lynch rang back to say that he would be staying in South Africa.

Has he now burnt his boats so far as ever playing for England (his avowed ambition) is concerned? Will he, in fact, no longer be classified as an Englishman, which he is at the moment by reason of having lived in Walton on Thames since, as a boy, he came to England from Guyana?

Should he be reclassified as an "overseas" player, so long as he stays with Surrey he will be competing with Sylvester Clarke and Geoff Howarth for one, or at the best two, available places. This would depend upon whether Lynch's Surrey registration was considered to date, as it does now, from 1977 (in which case he and one of the other two could play in the same Surrey side) or whether, being reclassified, he would also have to be re-registered.

What may happen, I imagine, is that the TCCB will relent in so far as allowing Lynch to remain an "English" player is concerned but that they will ban him from Test cricket for three years, as they did Gooch and the 14 other Englishmen who went to South Africa early last year. Even if they do that there must be a chance of their being sued for restraint of trade, with Lynch being supported by South African money. At the time of last year's ban there were those who considered that the TCCB would have been on a sticky wicket had they been taken to court.

Lynch and Surrey did seem to me to be wanting the best of both worlds in thinking that Lynch, because he is West Indian, could play for a West Indian side, albeit an unrepresentative one, in South Africa without jeopardizing his English qualification. If Lamb and Christopher Smith were to play for South Africa in their forthcoming series with the West Indian side, there would be no question of their not forfeiting their eligibility for England.

From the point of view of the black cricketers in South Africa I am delighted Lynch will be playing there. He could light a candle, perhaps even a bonfire, in the townships. The Surrey manager, Mickey Stewart, said last night that he was sorry Lynch had spoiled his chances of selection for England, at any rate for a while. He also expressed a wish that the case be kept out of the courts, a sentiment which will be shared by the TCCB who, whatever they decide, now have another regulation concerning players from overseas to tighten up.

● PRETORIA: Alvin Kallicharran scored a rapid 92 as the rebel West Indian team showed more of their true form on the final day of their three-day match against Northern Transvaal yesterday (Reuter reports). But the winning target of 272 proved too much and once the Guyanese left-hander had been dismissed the tourists settled for a draw.

The West Indians had been outplayed in every department over the first two days. But over the last two sessions they staged a respectable challenge. They had reached 183 for five when the match was called off

SCORES: Northern Transvaal 288 for 9 dec (W Morris 73, L Barnard 60) and 136 for 5 dec; West Indian XI 153 (F Weldeman 4 for 35) and 183 for 5 (A Kallicharran 92).

Pakistan change captain

Islamabad (Reuter) The Pakistani cricket authorities yesterday ruled that Imran Khan, the captain, would take no part in the current series in Australia and said that Zaheer Abbas, vice-captain, would take over the captaincy for the remaining four Test matches.

Nur Khan, president of the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan, said in Lahore that the decision was taken by the board's council yesterday in the light of latest medical reports about Imran's fitness, the Associated Press of Pakistan reported.

Imran, who is suffering from a stress fracture of the left shin, was appointed last mouth to lead the team to Australia for the five-Test match series. He missed the first Test in Perth and said last week that he was not optimistic about being fit for the second Test match beginning in Brisbane on Friday.

Nur Khan said Imran would not be called home and he had been advised to get treatment in Australia. The BCCP would pay all his medical expenses. If Imran recovers before the end of the tour, he will play under Zaheer Abbas.


Imran: not going home

The president said, there was no urgent need to send a replacement, but added that Sarfraz Nawaz and a number of other pace bowlers, as well as certian batsmen, were under donsideration as possible reinforcements.

Imran was appointed captain last month against the wishes of the selection committee which resigned inprotest at this and other changes in its recommended team.

The board was later criticized by seferal Pakistani cricket writers since Imran has not been fit enough to play on the tour.

From red to black in Gloucester

Gloucestershire made a profit of £21,000 in the year ending September 30. That, they say in their annual report, is a "miracle". Faced with a projected loss of more than £50,000 and subsequent insolvency, there was a dramatic turn in fortunes at the end of the season.

Gloucestershire were saved by the greatly increased contribution from the Test and County Board; the superb weather at Cheltenham, which lead to record gate receipts and last-minute sponsorship; sale of treasury stock; increased donations; and a greater surplus from the Jessop Taverners Club. The club are still £65,000 in the red from previous years.

Lancashire have recovered from their record loss of £115,000 in 1982 to make a profit of £15,000 on last season. Ground advertising at Old Trafford was up by £65,000 and there were substantial increases in match sponsorship and catering income.

Cedric Rhoades; the Lancashire chairman said yesterday: "Everyone at the club has worked tremendously hard in fighting back after the 1982 disaster".

RACING: DRY WEATHER CONTINUES TO DECIMATE FIELDS


Parting of the ways for John Burke and Paddys Belle in Plumpton's November Hurdle

Smith is sweet on Midnight Love

By Michael Seely

Fulke Walwyn remains a legend in his lifetime and a triumphant advertisement for the toughness and vitality of the human spirit. Complaining about the drought that has hardened the gallops and made life so difficult for those involved in racing, the 73-year-old trainer said yesterday: "Its all so dull. We don't know what to do when we get up in the morning."

However hopes are still growing that Everett is going to provide the grand old man of steeplechasing with an incredible eighth triumph in the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury on Saturday. "This is one of my few horses that doesn't mind the going," the trainer said. "He's been working really well and cannot be considered to be unfairly handicapped. Conceivably a fairy tale could yet come true."

Everett is owned by by Kilian Hennessy and was bred by the late Mrs Peggy Hennesy expressly for the purpose of attempting to win the race sponsored by the family.

Bregawn, the winner of the Hennessy as well as the Cheltenham Gold Cup last season has been withdrawn because of the going. Ashley House and Marnik therefore become the only two possible runners for Michael Dickinson from the 17 that were declared at yesterday's four-day stage of acceptors.

However, the trainer who showed such boldness when announcing his plans for the future on Monday was in one of his indecisive moods when discussing the present situation.

"Ashley House is not 100 per cent sound after pulling a muscle at Wincanton and Marnik's blood count is not normal. I'm doing my best to keep everyone informed, but its only fair to say that there were similar doubts about Bregawn and Captain John before they finished first and second last year."

William Hills make Midnight Love their favourite at 9-2. They then go 5-1 Everett, 11-2 Brown Chamberlin, 6-1 Ashley House and Marnik and 7-1 Gaye Chance. Approaching, who beat only seven rivals for Josh Gifford in 1978, is a certain runner and is on offer at 14-1.

In view of the doubts about the Dickinson pair, the odds against both Midnight Live and Everett appear likely to contract. Considering Walwyn's remarkable record in the big race, the 5-1 against Everett must represent sound value.

Frank Osgood, the clerk of the course at Newbury, reports that the going is firm. "There's a good covering of grass, but there has been no serious rain since October 15. The people I'm sorry for are the trainers, as its impossibito get horses ready to race under these conditions. And if the rain comes suddenly, we'll probably by flooded, as these things have a habit of levelling themselves out."

Midnight Love has been made favourite on the strength of his defeat of Kudos at Newcastle. Handicaps experts consider the winner of five races two seasons ago to be the pick of the weights. Last season Midnight Love failed to win a race

Denys Smith is hopeful of a good performance from his first runner in the Hennessy during his 28-year career as trainer. "Basically Midnight Love was too high in the handicap last season. He's to my liking now. To be sure he misses the odd fence out, but what horse doesn't?"

Because of the underfoot conditions Silver Buck is unable to attempt to record his fifth successive victory this afternoon's Edward Hanmer Memorial Chase at Haydock. However, Wayward Lad will make a more than able deputy for the 1981 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner. The jumping of last season's King George VI Chase winner was spectacular at Wetherby in October

There are only 21 runners in the remaining five races on the Lanacshire course. John Blundell can land a double by winning the Bryn Hurdle with Abu Torkey and the County Handicap Chase with Magic Tipp.

Frost threatens meetings

Today's race meeting at Haydock Park and Ludlow both depend on early-morning inspections. Heavy overnight frost is forecast at both courses. The Haydock stewards will inspect at 7.15 and at Ludlow a decisiòn will be made after a look at the course at 7.30.

The clerk of the course at Ludlow, Major John Moon, said yesterday: "The local forecast is deplorable. The overnight temperature is forecast to drop to minus 8 Centigrade and is not expected to rise above zero before 11.30 in the morning." Major Philip Arkwright, clerkof the course at Haydock, announced contingeacy plans concerning the Edward Hanmer Chase. He said: "Should we lose tomorrow's racing then the Edward Hanmer Chase will be carried forward to Thursday, making a seven-race card. The race will be the first on the card, and will be timed at 12.30."

Should either meeting be lost it will be the first abandonment of the jumping season.

Stone's appeal turned down

Keith Stone's appeal against the relegation of Permabos from first to second place in the Tom Masson Trophy Hule at Newbury on November 2 was dismissed by the Jockey Club's disciplinary committee yesterday.

The race was run in thick fog and almost led to a riot among disgruntled punters with police and ring inspectors called to the weighing room. The Jockey Club rubbed salt into the Malton trainer's wounds by ordering his £150 deposit to be forfeited - an act the trainer described as "criminal".

Stone was also furious that at yesterdays hearing thecommittee relied on a different film of the race than the one he saw at Newbury on November 2. "It was a clearer version, although I would still have appealed," he said. "I'm very upset and disappointed."

The committee upheld the decision of the Newbury stewards to award the race to David Nicholson's Connaught River because of interference by Permabos between the final two flights.

The disciplinary committe of the jockey Club also considered an appeal by David Wilson, the trainer of Gamblers Dream, against the decision of the Sandown Park stewards to impose a fine of £500 upon him in respect of the failure of this horse to run in the Santa Anita Sprint on October 19. Having considered the evidence the committee found that he failed to comply with the requirement of paragraph (D) of the special conditions which applied to the Anglo-American jockeys event, and therefore dismissed the appeal

Suspension for Perrett

Mark Perrett was suspended for three days for careless riding at Southwell yesterday after winning on Mr Jet. The ban starts on December 1. Perrett, who lost his whip two flights from home, brought Mr Jet, the 6-4 favourite, home a winner by a neck from Ascenmoor in the Willow Novices Hurdle. Riberion was four lengths further away in third. Protests came from riders of both the placed horses. The stewards sustained the objection to the winner lodged by Derek Shaw (Ascenmoor), who claimed Mr Jet had "bumped and bored" his mount after the last flight and on the run for home. Scobie Coogan (Riberion) then objected to the first two, protesting that they had jumped across his mount at the last and squeezed him out.

The stewards sustained Coogan's objection to the winner, but overruled his complaint against Ascenmoor. Having sorted out the objections, the stewards awarded the race to Ascenmoor, placing Riberion second and Relagating Mr Jet to third.

They found that Mr Jet had accidentally interfered with Riberion, but considered the interference be caused Ascenmoor was due to Perrett's careless riding. Perrett had earlier won the Birch Novices Chase on the evens favourite, Just For The Crack.

STATE OF GOING: Ludlow: firm. Haydock: firm. Tomorrow. Wincanton: firm.

TENNIS

A Briton at pains to win quickly

By a Special Correspondent

When Linda Geeves, of Middlesex, who manages to play the game and commentate at the same time, took the court against the Romanian, Florenta Mihai, in the first round of the Lawn Tennis Association satellite event at the Ace Tennis Centre, Coventry, yesterday it seemed that an eccentric match might ensue.

But Miss Mihai, who can cut so dark and tragic a figure, was in no mood to get worked up and Miss Geeves, who had not eaten all day, felt she could ill afford to expend what energy she had on any "theatrical nonsense".

So, the match was one of the most silent on offer, Miss Geeves winning 6-4, 7-6. When 2-4 down in the second set tie-break, Miss Geeves told her father that she would have to pull out if the match went to three sets. She was suffering from stomach cramps and, as she laughingly pointed out later, it had hardly helped when two spectators observed at the start that she was not looking too good.

In desperation, however, Miss Geeves took the next five points to win the tie-break 7-4 and secure one of her best results of the year. Her volleying was particularly impressive and her game unusually relaxed, something her father thought had much to do with the way she was feeling.

Lisa Pennington, a former winner of the British 18 and under hard court championship, defeated Lorrayne Gracie, of Manchester, 2-6, 7-6, 6-1. Several times in the second set Miss Gracie came to the net on the wrong ball and the mistakes were clearly on her mind in the decider.

FIRST ROUND: J Waringa (Neth) bt R Howett (Ire), 6-1, 6-1; L Pennington bt L Gracie, 2-6, 7-6, 6-1; E Jones bt N Lusty, 6-3, 6-1; C Daniels (US) bt S Nicholson (Ire), 8-0, 2-6, 6-3; C Fullerton (US) bt B Borneo, 6-1, 6-2; L Geeves bt F Mihai (Rom), 6-4, 7-6; I Custo (WG) bt E Walliser (WG), 6-2, 6-2; S Sullivan bt J Rich, 6-3, 7-6.

ATHLETICS

Doctors 'blundered' in US drugs walk-out

Indianapolis (Reuter) – Doctors with the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) were partially to blame for the withdrawal of 11 Aerican athletes from the Pan-American games in Caracas in August, a report has claimed.

A five-member commission was appointed by The Athletics Congress (TAC), the governing body of athletics in the United States, to investigate circumstances surrounding the walk-out. Their report, released yesterday, said: "There is clear evidence to the effect that the medical forces with the USOC gave advice conflicting with that given by the TAC staff. Some such advice, in fact, was erroneous."

The report cited an example where one USOC doctor in Caracas was reported to have said that testing equipment might be able to detect banned drugs within a year of athletes beginning to use them. The commission quotes Professor Manfred Donike, of West Germany, who set up the testing laboratory at Caracas, as dismissing that advice as "nonsense" and "more than an exaggeration."

The American weightlifter, Jeff Michels, was among 16 competitors from 10 countries who were disualified and stripped of their medals at the games after tests showed they had used illegal drugs, primarily anabolic steroids. All told, 14 American team members left Caracas abruptly, fanning suspicion that more might have been using drugs to boost their performaces.

The TAC commission said a decision was taken, well before the games to test for drugs at future Olympic trials and at all TAC outdoor championships. The decision will be implemented and will be well publicized.

The panel also said confusion surrounding which drugs were illegal and whether certain drugs were dangerous to health contributed to the problem. Last September USOC created a task force on drug control, a principal function of which will be research and educational activities.

Since new drugs appear on the market almost daily, a list of banned drugs can never be totally up to date, the commission said. It suggested a list of "safe" drugs for stated medical problems be made available.

Moses speaks for depoliticized promised land

Lausanne (Reuter) – The athletes' commission of the International Olympic Committee issued a statement on Monday condemning the "repeated intrusion of politics in the Olympic movement."

The statement, drafted by Ed Moses of the United States, the world 400 metres hurdles world champion and world record-holder, at a meeting of the eight-member commission here, said: "We feel that the majority of today's competitors would like to be able to harvest the fruits of their dedicated efforts and compete without undue political influence or stress."

Cram's course for Olympic examinations

Steve Cram may undertake two overseas trainging periods in his build-up to next year's Olympic Games.

Cram, already the hoder of the world, European and Commonwealth 1,500 metres championships, is considering spending a few weeks in Boulder, Colorado, in addition to his five-week visit to Australia and New Zealand.

"Nothing has been settled defitely about going to America, but I am certainly thinking about it. I have twice taken an Easter break in Boulder and it has worked well," Cram said.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

7.30 unless stated

UEFA Cup
Third round, first leg
Austria Vienna v Inter Milan (6.0)
Bayern Munich v Tottenham H (7.0)
Lens v Anderlecht (7.0)
Nottingham F v Celtic
Radnicki Nis v Hajduk Split (4.0)
Sparta Rotterdam v Spartak Moscow (7.0)
Sturm Graz v Lokomotiv Leipzig (6.0)
Watford v Sparta Prague

Milk Cup
Third round replay
Oxford U v Leeds U

FA Cup
First round replays
Bristol City v Corinthian-Casuals (7.45)
Hartlepool v Rotherham
Maidstone v Exeter
Waterlooville v Northampton

ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Boston v Gateshead.

FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Bristol Rovers v Charlton (2.30); Leicester v Chelsea (2.0); Millwall v Queen's Park Rangers (2.0).

CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Aston Villa v Sheffield United (7.0); Blackburn v Sunderland (7.0); Bolton v Leeds (7.0). Second division: Huddersfield v Manchester City; Port Vale v Coventry (7.0).

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Premier division: Cheltenham v Witney. Midland division: Shepshed Charterhouse v Banbury.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Second division: Molesey v Barton Rovers.

MIDWEEK LEAGUE: Northampton v Peterborough.

MIDDLESEX SENIOR CUP: Second round: Harrow Borough v Edgware.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: Army v Essex FA (at Aldershot); Cambridge University v FA XI (at Cambridge United).

UAU CHAMPIONSHIP: South-East group play-offs: Kent v Brunel (2.15); Surrey v Essex (2.15).

FA YOUTH CUP: First round replay: Woking v Gravesend (7.45).

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCHES: Cambridge University v Mickey Steele-Bodger's XV (2.30); Ebbw Vale v South Glamorgan Institute (7.0); Glamorgan Wanderers v Cheltenham (7.15); Gloucester v Exeter University (7.0); Pontypridd v Pontypool (7.0); Swansea v South Wales Police (7.0).

UAU CHAMPIONSHIP: South East Group play-offs: London School of Economics v Brunel; Surrey v East Anglia.

HOCKEY

LONDON LEAGUE: Cambridge University v Hawks (2.15) Slough v Oxford University (2.15).

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: London University v Essex XI (2.15).

UAU CHAMPIONSHIP: South East Group play offs: Men: Surrey v University College, London; Sussex v Brunel. Women: Kent v Essex; Sussex v University College, London

OTHER SPORT

SNOOKER: UK Championship (at Guildhall, Preston, 2.30 and 7.30).

BASKETBALL: National League, first division: Hemel Hempstead v Doncaster (8.0); Bolton v Leicester (8.0)

REAL TENNIS: British Open singles championship (Queen's Club).

Haydock Park

Tote: Double 2.0, 3.0. Treble 1.30, 2.30, 3.30

1.0 BILLINGE HURDLE (novices: £1,178: 2m 4f) (4 runners)

1 23p-421 SUMMER PATH (W Bayston) M Camacho 5-11-8 ... M Dwyer
6 b300-01 SOUND OF LAUGHTER (Mrs B Burgess) J Blundell 5-11-2 ... D Dutton
31 WILDRUSH (W C Watts) W Watts 4-10-9 ... –
32 9 PAULINE LESLEY (Maj P Bailey) J Wilson 4-10-4 ... Mrs G Rees

4-5 Sound Of Laughter, 9-4 Summer Path, 6 Wildrush, 10 Pauline Lesley.

1.30 BRYN HURDLE (handicap: £1,381: 2m) (3)

6 0u0-002 ABU TORKEY (D) (J Blundell) J Blundell 6-11-7 ... D Dutton
7 110080- MISS LOVE (C,D) (W Love) Denys Smith 6-11-3 ... G Bradley
17 132484- DOUBLE DISCOUNT (D) (Mrs J Ramsden) C James 5-10-0 ... C Brown

1-2 Abu Torkey, 5-2 Miss Love, 8 Double Discount.

2.0 EDWARD HANMER CHASE (limited handicap: £5,983: 3m) (3)

2 13213-1 WAYWARD LAD (C,D) (Mrs S Thewlis) M W Dickinson 8-11-13 ... R Earnshaw
10 22111-3 SNOWTOWN BOY (C) (Mrs M Kean) J Barry 8-10-7 ... J J O'Neill
11 210-33r FORTINA'S EXPRESS (D) (P Piller) W A Stephenson 9-10-7 ... R Lamb

1-5 Wayward Lad, 6 Snowtown Boy, 12 Fortina's Express.

2.30 NORWEST HOLST CHASE (£3,033: 2m) (4)

4 32-1123 SUPER SOLO (D) (A M Davidson PD Ltd) G Richards 7-11-7 ... N Doughty
5 00030-1 KEVINSFORT (D) (Mrs R Haggie) J FitzGerald 5-11-5 ... R O'Leary
7 220-020 SAMPSON (H Johnson) Denys Smith 8-11-2 ... J J O'Neill
9 1400-f4 DEEP RIDGE (Shaikh Ali Abu Khamsin) Mrs M Rimell 5-11-0 ... R Linley

7-4 Kevinsfort, 9-4 Super Solo, 3 Deep Ridge, 5 Sampson.

3.0 COUNTY CHASE (handicap: £2,742: 2m 4f) (2)

15 1334-21 MAGIC TIPP (D) (R Beeson) J Blundell 10-11-12 (5 ex) ... D Dutton
22 04-p201 GREEN DOLPHIN (Mrs C Black) Mrs C Black 9-10-2 ... A Webber

8-13 Magic Tipp, 11-8 Green Dolphin.

3.30 WEAVERHAM HURDLE (3-y-o novices: £1,278: 2m) (8)

13 2 HARVESTER GOLD (B Cambidge) B Cambidge 11-0 ... Mr J Cambidge 4
19 03 MAC'S GIFT (A Robinson) S Bridge 11-0 ... W Morris 4
25 REMAINDER LINE (G Cooper) T Kersey 11-0 ... C Pimlott
29 THATS ODD (W Holden) W Holden 11-0 ... D Wilkinson
32 300 TOP TOUCH (J Graham) D McCain 11-0 ... J J O'Neill
34 2124 MOONLIGHT BAY (D) (R Smalley) M Lambert 10-12 ... P A Charlton
35 ANNIVERSARY TOKEN (G A Farndon Eng Co) J Wilson 10-9 ... Mrs G Rees
40 ROYAL EXPORT (W C Watts) W Watts 10-9 ... –

7-4 Mac's Gift, 5-2 Harvester Gold, 7-2 Moonlight Bay, 7 Top Touch, 10 Anniversary Token, 12 others.

Haydock selections

By Michael Seely

1.0 Summer Path. 1.30 Abu Torkey. 2.0 Wayward Lad. 2.30 Deep Ridge. 3.0 Magic Tipp. 3.30 Harvester Gold.

Little rest for Jack Ramsey

Matt McCormack, the Wantage trainer, is not wasting any time with Jack Ramsey, 3-1 on winner of the November Three-year-old Novice Hurdle (Div II) at Plumpton yesterday. McCormack plans to run the gelding, who is unbeaten in three races, at Folkestone on Monday. Winning jockey Paul Barton was completing a double initiated by Falkland Palace in the BBC Radio Sussex Chase.

Geoff Madwick, aged 19, rode his first winner when partnering Mercredi, trained by his father Michael, to victory in the Stanmer Conditional Jockeys Selling Handicap Hurdle. But the celebrations had to be delayed when a stewards' inquiry was announced. The stewards inquired into possible interference between Mercredi and runner-up Allado after the final flight. However, the result was allowed to stand, much to the relief of the Madgwick family.

Plumpton results

Going: firm

1.0 NOVEMBER HURDLE (Div I: 3-y-o novices: £690: 2m)

RECORD DANCER b g by Dancer's Image – Treacle (Miss H Gevers) 11-1
S Smith Eccles (1-5 fav) 1
Tough Customer ... S McNeill (12-1) 2
Gamegaird ... P Barton (12-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £1.10. Places: £1.00, £1.50. DF: £1.80. CSF: £4.14. G Pritchard-Gordon at Newmarket. 1½l, 8l. Pepperwood (33-1) 4th. 8 ran.

1.30 RON BOLTON CHASE (novices: £1,280: 2m 3f 90yd)

WESTON FAVELL b g by Targogan – Easter Vigil (Ward Hill Bookmakers) 6-11-3
J Francome (2-1 fav) 1
Viewed Away ... J Lovejoy (3-1) 2
Poor Excuse ... W Worthington (20-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £2.90. Places: £1.30, £1.30, £2.10. DF: £4.20. CSF: £7.45. N Gaselee at Lambourn. 2l, 7l. Glenjade (14-1) 4th. 9 ran. Nr: Kara.

2.0 PETER CAZALET CHASE (handicap: £1,671: 3m 1f)

ROUND THE TWIST b g by Bend A Bow – Freckleton Street (A Ross) 7-11-7 R Rowe (40-85 fav) 1
The Vinegar Man ... J Williams (9-4) 2
Kintyre ... Mr T Grantham (11-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £1.30. DF: £1.90. CSF: £1.75. D Oughton at Findon. 4l, dist. 3 ran.

2.30 STANMER CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HURDLE (Selling handicap: £694: 2m)

MERCREDI b g by Mount Hagen – Amorce (M Madgwick) 4-10-12 ... G Madgwick (11-2) 1
Allado ... A Wright (2-1 fav) 2
T Williams ... T Williams (14-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £5.60. Places: £1.50, £1.30, £2.70. DF: £10.70. CSF: £15.92. M Madgwick at Denmead. 1½l, 12l. Thomas A Becket (3-1) 4th. 8 ran. NR: Hatballo. Bought in for 820 guineas.

3.00 BBC RADIO SUSSEX CHASE (Handicap: £1,536: 2m)

FALKLAND PALACE b g by Royal Palace – Festival Night (A Ellis) 6-11-3
P Barton (5-6 fav) 1
Truncheon ... A Madgwick (10-1) 2
Braisma And Lizzt ... G Newman (3-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £1.90. DF: £6.60. CSF: £7.11. D Gandolfo at Wantage. 6l, 2l. Chelsea Bar (4-1) 4th 4 ran.

3.30 NOVEMBER HURDLE (Div II: 3-y-o novices: £690: 2m)

JACK RAMSEY b g by Tudor Rhythm – Top Soprano (M Stewkesbury) 11-6
P Barton (1-3 fav) 1
Gardeners Arms ... J Francome (4-1) 2
Nestor Man ... D Hyde (20-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £1.20. Places: £1.00, £1.70. DF: £2.10. CSF: £2.35. M McCormack at Wantage. 10l, 2½l. Fiona The Fair (50-1) 4th. 6 ran.

PLACEPOT: £2.70.

Chepstow race named after Prince Charles

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

Chepstow racecourse is to name a race after the Prince of Wales. The Clerk of the course, John Hughes, announced yesterday that the Prince of Wales Chase will be run for the first time at their next meeting on December 3. It will be run over two miles, for five-year-olds and upwards and will be for mares only, at the specific request of Prince Charles.

Chepstow is also to stage a race in memory of Shaikh Ali Abu Khamsin's brilliant but ill-fated novice hurdler, Deep Wealth, who won his first three races over hurdles last season but fell three out in the Panama Cigar Hurdle Final on the course last March and collapsed and died as he was being led back.

The Shaikh who has been leading owner under National Hunt rules for the past two seasons, is showing his great affection for the sport by putting up £15,000 for the Deep Wealth Memorial Hurdle which will replace the Panama Cigar Hurdle Final.

The new race will be for five-year-olds only and run on March 10. Shaikh Ali has also said that if any of his own horses finish in the frame the prize-money will be given to the Apprentice School Charitable Trust for the British Racing School

It was also announced yesterday that Coral's, the bookmakers, have increased their contribution for this year's Welsh National on December 27, making it up to £22,000, the richest race ever staged at Chepstow. Last year's winner, Corbiere, went on to complete the great double when he won the Grand National at Aintree, and Jenny Pitman's eight-year-old is among the 91 entries for next month's Welsh National with two other previous winners, Peaty Sandy and Narvik.

Mrs Pitman intends trying to win the Chepstow marathon again with Corbiere, but at present her plans to get him on to a course are being frustrated by the continuing firm ground.

Michael Dickinson has made five entries for the race – Ashley House, Cavity Hunter, Gay Spartan, Righthand Man and Captain John, who was the odds on favourite for the race last year in which he ran badly because he pulled muscles in his back.

The total prize-money at stake at Chepstow on December 27 will be nearly £40,000, another record for the course. The £7,500 Finale Junior Hurdle, for three-year-olds, and a Haig Whisky Qualifier are the main supporting races.

● Robert Sangster was again in the news when his Swettenham Stud in Cheshire, selling for the first time at Goffs, made a total of 382,000 Irish guineas for nine mares. They all went into the ring without reserve on the fourth day of the record-making November sale in County Kildare. The top-priced lot in the draft was Transit a four-year-old Thatch mare for which Tommy Stack paid 125,000 Irish guineas.

Ludlow

12.45 CRAVEN ARMS HURDLE (selling handicap: £539: 2m) (11 runners)

1 010403 THE KNIFE (D) (Miss S Lavery) M James 5-11-10 ... Miss S James 7
3 0001-00 RUSSIAN SALAD (C,D) (E Jones) F Jordan 4-11-7 ... C Smith
4 008/000 LADYSWOOD (C,D) (Dr B Coulton) K Bridgwater 6-11-6 ... W Worthington 7
5 234003 HAWAIIAN HEIR (H White) W Clay 4-11-6 ... C Mann 4
9 00300-p INDADO (D) (R Williams) R Williams 5-10-12 ... C Evans 7
10 43-0000 TENNIS TRACK (R Hickman) R Hickman 5-10-11 ... P Scudamore
11 000-000 RELUCTANT HERO (A Barrow) A Barrow 4-10-9 ... Lorna Vincent
12 44030p/ CHUCK'S SONG (P Rodford) P Rodford 6-10-9 ... C Gray 4
13 0p-00p0 ZULU WARRIOR (A W Jones) A W Jones 4-10-7 ... K Whyte
14 p0-00 FLYBACK (W Whiston) W Whiston 6-10-7 ... Mrs K Dickin 7
15 040-001 SEVERN SOUND (D) (J Bradley) J M Bradley 5-10-10 (5 ex) ... G Davies

5-2 The Knife, 100-30 Russian Salad, 9-2 Indado, 7 Hawaiian Heir, 10 Zulu Warrior, Severn Sound, 16 Tennis Track, 20 Chuck's Song, 33 others.

1.15 TEME CHASE (5-y-o novices: £897: 2m) (2)

1 0-30211 COMEDIAN (D) (Mrs G Benney) D Nicholson 11-10 ... P Scudamore
2 011104 KYOTO (D) (B Monkhouse) J Jenkins 11-3 ... S Smith Eccles

4-9 Comedian, 2 Kyoto.

1.45 SHROPSHIRE DESIGN CHASE (handicap: £1,654: 2m 4f) (4)

3 42-1012 LATIN AMERICAN (J Ritchie) T Forster 8-11-7 ... H Davies
6 002431 BIRD STREAM (B) (Lady S Brooke) Lady S Brooke 7-11-4 (7 ex) ... P Dever 7
7 uff004 DUNDRUM BAY (C) (G Bradshaw) A Barrow 8-11-3 ... P Stone 7
8 002pb2 STATE RUN (M Low) M Low 8-11-2 ... Mr M Low

4-5 Latin American, 11-4 Bird Stream, 7-2 State Run, 12 Dundrum Bay.

2.15 HAIG WHISKY HURDLE (novices: £1,273: 2m) (9)

1 00-3321 GROCKLE (D) (D Barons) D Barons 6-11-10 ... H Davies
7 0000-04 MR MYND (B) (G Buckingham-Bawden) J Wright 6-11-0 ... K Mooney
10 000 NICK BARRY (R Piper) Mrs J Pitman 4-10-10 ... B De Haan
11 00u PRINCE PIPPIN (C Marriott) C Miller 4-10-10 ... P Scudamore
12 002-033 QUEENSWAY BOY (Queensway Securities Ltd) Miss A King 4-10-10 ... R Dickin
13 ppp CHERRY-LEE (Mrs A Price) Mrs A Price 5-10-9 ... Mr D Robinson
14 EMBARR MADE (Exors of late W Eckley) B Eckley 6-10-9 ... B Eckley
16 0p-0020 JUBILEE DOVE (J Price) R Price 6-10-9 ... C Smith
17 00/000- LAURELLO (R Chugg) R Chugg 6-10-9 ... J Burke

Evens Grockle, 2 Jubilee Dove, 6 Queensway Boy, 8 Mr Mynd, 20 Nick Barry, 33 others.

2.45 COURT OF HILL CHASE (handicap: amateurs: £1,248: 3m) (6)

1 010-222 LAURENSUN (C) (Mrs C Black) M Oliver 8-11-10 ... J Weston
2 3-32412 LODGE'S FORTUNE (C) (Mrs G Lodge) Mrs S Davenport 8-11-8 (4 ex) ... A Sharpe 4
5 1441-32 FATHER GLEB (Miss C Allsopp) T Forster 7-10-13 ... R Dunwoody
6 02-14fu KRAKAR (I Wills) N Henderson 7-10-11 ... I Wills 7
14 p3pp-41 NAVARO (B) (Mrs J George) J George 9-10-0 (9 ex) ... P MacEwan 7
16 22/403- ABIATA (D Davies) P Ransom 11-10-0 ... R Beggan 4

5-2 Father Gleb, 3 Laurensun, Lodge's Fortune, 4 Krakar, 10 Navaro, 20 Abiata.

3.15 HALFORD HURDLE (novices: £483: 2m) (16)

1 040010 FLY MORE (B) (W Whiston) W Whiston 7-11-10 ... Mrs K Dickin 7
2 /04-200 HARFORD (Monmore Auto Spares Ltd) B McMahon 6-11-0 ... R Crank
7 4p/0-03 PONTI HILL (B) (K Lewis) K Lewis 9-11-0 ... R Hyett
9 0f0-p ADJUSTED (H Yates) R Hollinshead 4-10-10 ... H Davies
10 p- CORPORAL CLINGER (Jay Dee Racing Ltd) M Pipe 4-10-10 ... P Leach
12 p0000p- FARE LOVE (E Evans) E Evans 4-10-10 ... J Suthern
13 00- GOINGO (R Brown) R Brown 4-10-10 ... C Seward
15 0-0 INT SIN BIN (A Brightcliffe) Mrs C Lloyd-Jones 4-10-10 ... –
16 0-00000 KALO ASTRO (B) (C Dodson) J Wright 4-10-10 ... K Mooney
17 200-222 SANDWALKER (G Billings) Mrs M Rimell 4-10-10 ... S Morshead
18 00-0 SILK SCREEN (M Ritzenberg) G Thorner 4-10-10 ... P Barton
20 4-00244 STORTON (T Cooper) M Oliver 4-10-10 ... P Hobbs
21 40-0003 WESTERN HERO (Mrs J Langley) B Langley 4-10-10 ... C Smith
22 0 FOXLEY MEL (J Kyneston) M James 7-10-9 ... M Bowlby 7
24 03/-003 JUKEBOX KATIE (R Hanson) W Clay 4-10-5 ... C Mann 4
28 p-0p SPORTSWORDS (A Lee) J King 4-10-5 ... P Scudamore

10-11 Sandwalker, 5 Storton, Jukebox Katie, 8 Harford, 10 Fly More, 12 Ponti Hill, 20 Silk Screen, 33 others.

Ludlow selections

By Michael Seely

12.45 The Knife. 1.15 Comedian. 1.45 Latin American. 2.15 Queensway Boy. 2.45 Lodge's Fortune. 3.15 Harford.

Southwell results

Going: Firm

12.45 POPLAR CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS CHASE (£578: 2m 74yd)

ROYAL DON b m by Royal Palm – Castle Donato (J Rowles) 8-10-0
P Blackburn (5-6 fav) 1
Miss Danza ... P Cowley (20-1) 2
Extracter ... G Charles-Jones (20-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £1.60. DF: £4.90. CSF: £9.75. J Leigh at Gainsborough. 1½l, dist. 4 ran. only 3 finished.

1.15 SYCAMORE HURDLE (selling handicap: £508: 2m 4f)

RIVER WARRIOR b g by Fordon River – Wounded Knee (J Bradley) 5-11-8
G Davies (5-2) 1
Whatton Marine ... P Dever (15-8 fav) 2
Little Tyrant ... P Corrigan (4-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £3.20. Places: £2.00, £1.40. DF: £6.70. CSF: £7.82. J Bradley at Chepstow. ¾l, 15l. Cheeky Monkey (7-1) 4th. 6 ran. NR: Probilist, Lord Charles. bought in 1,000 gns.

1.45 HAWTHORN CHASE (handicap: £1,484: 3m 110yd)

BALLYVICE ch g by Ballymoss – Song Of The Ice (P Simpson) 8-11-7 J J O'Neill (1-4 fav) 1
Old Castle Line ... V McKevitt (6-1) 2

TOTE: Win: £1.20. DF: £1.40. CSF: £2.40. H Wharton at Wetherby. 8l. 3 ran. only 2 finished.

2.15 ALDER HURDLE (£944: 2m)

RIBODEN b g Ribero – True Dresden (D Richards) 5-10-8 ... J J O'Neill (1-2 fav) 1
Silent Echo ... Mr R Dunwoody (11-1) 2
Quickthorn ... P Dever (4-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £1.30. Places: £1.00, £2.60. DF: £3.90. CSF: £5.78. B McMahon at Tamworth. 4l, 8l. Wise Man (20-1) 4th. 5 ran.

2.45 BIRCH CHASE (novices: £882: 3m 110yds

JUST FOR THE CRACK ch g The Parson – Roessong (G Wills) 5-10-7
M Perrett (Evens fav) 1
Tieranne ... Mr P Dun (7-4) 2
Tiptree Lover ... J Suthern (33-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £1.80. DF: £1.60. CSF: £2.99. K Bailey at East Ilsley. 7l, 15l. Public Relations (4-1) 4th. 4 ran NR: Ivory Crest.

3.15 WILLOW HURDLE (novices: £414: 2m 4f)

ASCENMOOR b c Ascendant – Honeymoor (S Bowring 4-10-3 ... D Shaw (9-2) 1
Riberion ... A Coogan (8-1) 2
Mr Jet ... M Perrett (6-4 fav) 3

TOTE: Win: £4.80. Places: £1.90, £2.70. DF: £9.00. CSF: £30.03. S Bowring at Southwell. Nk, 4l. Queensway Boy (2-1) 4th. 7 ran. NR: Mister Wheeles. Mr Jet fin 1st, disq. 3rd Ascenmoor fin 2nd awrd race. PLACEPOT: £47.10.